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HEAD LOOK BIG
IN THIS?**

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'Let's do what Rory Stewart says. Stop the killing in Afghanistan and start a plan to rebuild.'



CALLWOOD as a young journalist: 'She would have insisted credit be given where it's due'

PRaising CALLWOOD

I ENJOYED READING Peter C. Newman's article about Jane Callwood ("A passion for the fight," *Aggravation*, April 16). The respect and admiration he felt for her came shining through. Allow me to make a correction. The quote, "She was the good thing people do, however small," was attributed to me as her biographer, but these words came from an article by Russ Maynard in the January 2005 issue of *Chautauque*. Jane would have insisted that credit be given where it's due. May her necessary continues to inspire us all.
Anne DeLillo, Toronto

HEART TO HEART

IN YOUR EXCLUSIVE report on the meaning of health, you say that people should perform 30 minutes of sustained aerobic exercise three to four times a week, and the recommended minimum heart rate is a level of 120 beats per minute within your age ("What do you mean, a 'heart' gene?" *Health*, April 30). This is actually a grossly inflated formula for calculating a person's maximum heart rate (MHR). I would not be safe or advisable for most people to exercise at this intensity for sustained periods. Stepping is a heart rate range of 65 to 80 per cent of MHR would be more appropriate.
Jon Daniels, Toronto

WHAT SERVICE MEANS

AUTHOR AND FORMER British army army Rory Stewart's comments on the Afghanistan

war known as well reflect his appreciation of history and some diluted wisdom from a (Toronto, April 16). From all reports, the Canadian Forces are trying to win the hearts and minds of the Afghans. This can less be done by being of service to them.
G. James Thompson, Guelph, Ont.

THE BEST EXPLANATION of the Afghan mess over writers. Let's do as the man says: stop the killing and start an honest plan of rebuilding. In the end, it would cost a lot less and it might bring peace.
Donald Marante, North York Hill, Ont.

IN PASSING

Bertha Wilson, 85, jurist. The first female Supreme Court of Canada justice, she participated in significant rulings from 1981 to 1991, the early years of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. She helped to build a more inclusive and confident role for women in society and a more inclusive role for women in society. She was known for her independent and confident role in ruling on controversial issues. She had a hand in the court's *Mitsunishi* abortion case, and in expanding the definition of self-defence, especially for battered women. Wilson, who was born in Kirkcaldy, Scotland, arrived in Canada in 1949 and was appointed to the Ontario Court of Appeal in 1975. She died in Ottawa.

MACLEAN'S

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A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF EHUD OLmert

On Monday, Israel's PM faced a barrage of calls for his resignation after a damning government probe task him to task for mishandling last summer's war in Lebanon, in which over 1,000 soldiers and civilians were killed. On Tuesday, Ehud Olmert, a junior minister, resigned his post, saying, "I can no longer sit in a government led by Elyad Olmert." Defiant, the PM swore he would not quit. Instead, he vowed to hold a special cabinet meeting to discuss the nation's crisis.

Good news

Small is beautiful

Given a country afflicting much of the developing world, it's surprising to those billions of dollars in every problem that appears on the horizon. Just this week, the UN reported on a pilot program that helped the poor in rural India generate electricity from inexpensive solar panels. The UN says roughly 100,000 people benefit daily from such systems, for example, saving hours of electric light at night, better school grades for their children, a healthier home, safer homes thanks to fewer kerosene lamps. The program is so successful, it will also have a budget of \$100 million. Sometimes it's better to think small.

Old is new again

In the current climate of religious tension and recycling, it's a thrill to discover someone still uses the very old stuff. This week, researchers in Philadelphia presented a medieval religious text that, through high-tech digital photography, they revealed had been written overtop a work penned by the Greek philosopher Aristotle.

FRENCH CONSERVATIVE presidential candidate Nicolas Sarkozy, a television personality in France, is shown at a campaign election

between intelligence and personal wealth. Researchers conducted a study of 3,400 Americans, measuring people's IQ scores against their level of personal wealth and debt. Turns out people with smarter are no more likely to be rich—and are actually

the joy of hearing no-dry speeches delivered by an oratorist who sounds a lot like a Muppet.

Made in China

Last month's pet food scandal—which resulted in the poisoning of thousands of North American pets who were fed tainted ingredients imported from China—is evidence of a apocalyptic and worry inspired in Chinese ambivalence towards unregulated capitalism. Now, Chinese industry of cowboy drug, authentic, the chemical found in the tainted pet food is commonly used for profit, but any Chinese manufacturers.

Bad news

Artful Dodger

Unfortunately, Bank of Canada governor David Dodge said last week that he will not seek a second term when his mandate ends next year. Dodge performed well in guiding the economy through rough times for our biggest trading partner, and deftly managing a sharp rise in the loonie. What's more, Canada will have to break in a replacement, and new central bankers tend to be gaffe-prone at first. But perhaps more of all, it's time that senior

an artificial protein booster in animal feed. Beijing has no regulations in place to ban the use of the chemical. Studies like these should make us much harder about everything we buy from China.

Secrets and lies

Remember when the Congress likes branded themselves as the party on being more accountable back in Parliament Hill? That's starting to seem like a long time ago, especially given this week's revelations over alleged crimes

FACE OF THE WEEK



FRENCH CONSERVATIVE presidential candidate Nicolas Sarkozy, a television personality in France, is shown at a campaign election

No more snake oil

The pressure to take a good decision amongst nations is overwhelming lately, but this week *Espresso*, the low-cost European airline, took a stand in favour of common sense. The company announced it is delaying the launch of a car hire offer next autumn on account

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MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON POST-MENOPAUSAL TRUDEAU-MANIA AND THE GG IN SPANDEX



JUSTIN'S Kennedy gambit

A MOVING EVENT, LITERALLY, FOR MARGARET TRUDEAU

Prized from stricken down Margaret Trudeau's face is her children, Justin Trudeau, now the Liberal nomination for Popmon. The win did present one problem though: when Trudeau's her Ottawa home. She'd previously been told that if he won, she would move to the north, working class Montreal riding, to hug to represent. Other bawling family members at the nomination battle included Trudeau's pre-game wife, Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, brother Emmanuel Trudeau and his partner, Zoe Beddo, with the son Pierre Emmanuel Trudeau. One middle-aged woman chided Trudeau as "but the woman is older!" Trudeau was cheered by the camera, but kept his cool. He got to ride only for a few minutes, during which he ate some fruit from a plastic cup—with his fingers. It was brief, often counted using the number of hands he had shaken over hours of wowing. Trudeau was spotted doing the signature Gerald Kennedy gesture of putting his hand on his chest. During the recent Liberal leadership contest, Trudeau

endorsed Kennedy and several Kennedy or gestures came from Toronto to help him out. When French speakers called them "gambits," they were told, "Je ne parle pas français." The victory party was at St. George Annunciation Orthodox Church, where waving Liberals peered open food trays covered with salad, making it look like a giant hip-hop buffet. Trudeau thanked his supporters, noting, "any parking tickets you got you can talk me about later!" The sole Liberal MP at the victory bash was Dominic LeBlanc. Trudeau says he has a lot to live up to because of his father's name. But compared to the current crop of 300-plus MPs, he certainly makes the grade. "He is definitely above the class average," conferred Michael Ignatieff.

PAGES CALL MP SOCCER FOUL

NDP MP Peter Seftor is putting the finishing touches on this year's space-age MPs: it was the performance pages soccer match. Of the previous year's arena matches, the MPs have won five. "I don't know why, because they are quite young and fit compared to most of us," said Edmonton Tory MP and team member Robyn Joffe. The MPs used to play old-fashioned soccer and in '90 games we had 60 goals scored against

us," said Seftor. "But we scored six." There is no plan to discuss creating the pages. Other regular players include Liberal



FOUL-mouthed Margaret Trudeau

MP Maurizio Bevilacqua, who once played in the Canadian National Soccer League for the Toronto Jets. In the past, Stephanie Dion has also been on the team. "He usually plays midfield as on the front line," said Seftor. "He won't bend it all. Spikes legs, of course!" Sometimes the MPs use NDP press secretary Karl Belonger as their goalie, which has one page crying foul. "I don't think that's fair," says Rebecca Murray. "We only have pages play." Murray had one free kick for the MPs. "We won't be giving them any water during the game."

ALEXANDRE TRUDEAU, Zoe Beddo, and baby Pierre-Emmanuel Trudeau (inset) Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau



SUPER JEAN

Michelle Jean showed she was a insider when she participated in an hour-and-a-half discussion with urban artists at Toronto's Whippersnapper Gallery. She looked tired but roused up enough energy to sit in a round table for a stimulating debate on possible future careers for underage youth and street graffiti. The gallery was filled with hip hop artists like The Vowels and special invited guests like painter and Order of Canada recipient Ken Doohey. Jean's



THE GG-in-spandex cover

youth organizer, Peter Flegel, reminded the room prior to the GG's arrival that while Jean was to be addressed as "Her Excellency" at youth events she likes to be greeted with "wow, wow, wow, who she likes to be hype!" The GG arrived the event to the sounds of Nicky Parrillo's Proclamation Girl. She was later presented with a framed cartoon cover of herself in a tight orange spandex spandex outfit with an "H!" blazoned across her chest. Super Jean ended. ■

ON THE WEB: For more Ottawa updates or to contact Mitchell Raphael visit mitchellrapheal.com

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHELLE RAPHAEL



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PAUL WELLS

"When you are a nation, it is perfectly natural to be a nationalist," Stephen Harper said the other evening in St-Narcisse-de-Beaurivage, sounding for all the world like he was launching one of his flowery speeches in some remote off-off-off Broadway musical.

When you're a *manly* man, it is perfectly natural to be a nationalist.

With considerable irony, you are finally not like you get the hang of that.

Oh, the Liberals are *stuck in green mud*. And Duceppe's *canoe* alone with a *thud*. The *long pause* that, I suspect I might get a *moment* at the end of that.

Okay, so the show doesn't proceed. Which is too bad because there was potential for a touring production. After world-topping in St-Narcisse—a town named after the patron saint of politicians who think they're closer than everyone else—the show could open big in Quebec City, capital of the federally mandated Québécois nation. From there it would be only a short hop to John, where Danny Williams has discovered it's more natural to be nationalist than, say, natural to be a nationalist.

Premier Williams is weird because the recent federal budget breaks a Harper campaign promise by putting the province only 10th in taxation over the next decade, rather than the hoped-for \$147-billionillion. "My government will deliver Newfoundland and Labrador as a *distinct people*," Williams told the province's beleaguered government. Ed Roberts, up in his speech from the Throne. "Not uniform in language but *multi-cultural*, one nation includes of many nations living in harmony together." In one speech he had missed the point. Williams had Roberts add that Newfoundlanders and Labradorians will become "masters in our own house."

This is when provinces do what they feel aggrieved: they discover their *inner Québécois*.

It's perfectly natural when you live in a nation—I refer, in case it's not clear, to Canada—where Prime Minister usually uses the word "nation" except in reference to Quebec. Soon enough, whenever Quebec has looks like it's worth living, and if you can't get it, it's perfectly natural to panic. Nobody would know this better than Stephen

This will prove to be true about Harper's nationalistic fixation, too. Last autumn, he presented that notion in the Commonsense calling "the Québécois" a nation within a united Canada. What became clear during that speech the other night on St-Narcisse is that the nation wasn't a one-off; Harper plans to keep going on it. Which means its entry into

"It is time to look at Quebec and its future," Harper wrote. "What Albertans should take from this example is to become 'business direct men'." Such a strict agenda across a range of policy areas will quickly put Alberta on the cutting edge of a world where the region, the continent and the globe are becoming more important than the nation-state."

Region, continent and globe having slipped from his grasp, Harper must concentrate himself on governing another state. He consoles himself by sharing the gap with almost nobody else.

We are 'a distinct people,' Williams said, discovering his inner Québécois nationalist

It's the first adviser in the history of the nation—sorry, of Canada—that meets, in his, every weekday after lunch to rehearse Queen Period together. Poor performers are not rewarded. Gordon O'Connor at National Defence and John Baird at Environment both learned, when their files became trouble spots last week, that their responsibilities could quickly be taken away from them in a crunch.

Harper's one-man management style is what it is. He will not change it soon. Not, probably, should he: it got him into the Prime Minister's Office and it bids fair to keep him there after the next election. He is a remarkably mollified man, and if you had his cabinet could talk them lightly too. But his style has the weaknesses of its strengths, as we say in Quebec: Harper is the only guy in his theatre company who knows the tune. When others try to sing it, they produce only confusion.

rail contraptions will come back to haunt him. Why did he call "les Québécois" a nation, and not Quebec? Is not everyone in Quebec a Québécois?

It's pretty clear that Harper wants the nation in question to include only francophones, old-stock Québécois. But Quebec nationalists think their nation is more "open" and includes every Québécois. The two definitions are impossible to reconcile. Harper has avoided trouble so far in his word game, by not letting anyone else say anything. Go look at the speeches on the website of his late-governor-often-minister-often-ambassador. You'll see there are more. But if Harper means on making his appeal to nationalists the centre of his Quebec campaign pitch, does that question won't go away? You're not open. You're not only halfway. ■



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BARBARA AMIEL

The side effect of this Chicago business is that it's a devil for column writing. The world revolves at reliably absurd levels ever. Sometimes hang out on every corner, like cheap howlers around midnight. Survival for me, though, depends on wearing a mental coat of shellac to block out harmful rays, rather like the way one covers all vulnerable skin with Mercury for sun protection. You can watch the news or read a newspaper—providing you sleep any story about yourself—but shun the reflective surface and stay business off. Thinking or feeling, which writing generally requires, dissolves any protection.

Last month, the Russian News Service, the largest independent radio news network in Russia, announced a 90 per cent positive news quota. The story received a comment's dozen Internet e-mails: none but "positive" would include anything about opposition leaders or death, violence and poverty—unless in *terrore*. The 90 per cent positive rule holds true 100 per cent of the time. "We are having trouble with the positive part, believe me," said an editor at the service, who in denoted that revealing his name would constitute his resignation. "If the media makes it up," he explained, "it's positive. The weather can also be positive."

I tried to write about this but the mind can't resist associations, and I soon bogged down. I remembered "positive" weather in the Lettering of 1964, when one morning I played guitar from the official radio de la quete of which I was member. I found a group of elderly women living off porridge and bread, headed out from a ferry. The sun was bright that day, strong enough to pack me later in the morning, like a slap, and the resigned faces of the women. Enough rain for me to snap a photo, I thought. So I snapped, only to be hauled off to some police station and have my camera confiscated. I made proud little notes of defiance in one of those

margin notes that live in the mind. I was so confident of the values of any world—the Western world of truth and justice and the rule of law. My tonight's quester of tomorrow must have arrived. The rain was following me.

When the weather changed this week, life in a wood-paneled courtroom assumed more interest. The sun ramped up into equinox. In a city of a thousand mirrored wet faces, where people usually live or work or sleep or move up and where clouds usually lower level with my breakfast cereal, weather has special resonance. A "positive" day means white, when surfaces of glass and stone, like those in a service alley by de Chirico or Debraux, provide in shade and anguished. Chicago's buildings in the sunlight look as formidable and eternal as Revolt and rest and give me *Ozymandias* here. Research them, secure in their permanence, politicians walk in umbrellas.

There are obviously all sorts of ways to deal with the personal access of sun light and dark, including music, work and even exercise if included. This week I thought of the 1979 Irish film *Shame* as a recently noted "The Girl in the Summer Dresses." The 1979 film is a perfect example of the relationship between love, in general and desire as a handful of women on a sunny urban Sunday in New York City. Research, a one-liner to many things, most especially the desire of the short story.

The short story was in

fact, gather up the best stories from such writers as Gogol, Maupassant, Chekhov, Somerset Maugham, Proust and Balzac. I can guess the D.H. Lawrence "Riding Home Wounded" by heart—perhaps because I recognise from my own childhood the sound the little boy hears in the walls of his home. "There must be more money. There must be more money" and I can tell it's O'Hara's "The Girl in the Summer Dresses" which describes perfectly the relationship I hoped to find and did discover at the end of my marital pilgrimage.

This relationship, together with the happy discovery of the *scandals* of friends over the past few years, is its own solar system. And what we are living through is not especially noteworthy on any scale of nightmare. I suppose it's the process of being singled out that is often more frightening than the thing itself. A Holocaust survivor once explained to me that when Jews were being rounded



I don't suppose," said the cheery email, "that when they lock him up she could go with him?"

fashion for about a hundred years—taking 1840-1940 as an arbitrary start. Writing a good one is dimensionally hard, harder than writing a good novel. It needs desperately simple prose with a touch of the force of the novel's depiction. The genre had an heyday when no self-respecting sage would consider publishing a mass without an ornate ornament. Among the best American writers was Pulitzer Prize winner John Cheever. I'm not sure why the short story died out as a powerful consciousness and emergency, perhaps because you need a mass market of skilled readers as well as skilled writers, and that group became progressively less available in the 20th century and all but vanished in the 21st.

Hope for resurrection of the genre was, paradoxically, in the Internet. A cluster of

up it was awful, but you were not in it alone. Your friends and family were in similar situations—there was a sort of order. One was, so to speak, less traumatized belonging to a persecuted group than being the single high-flyer, though being a member of a persecuted group could be far darker.

A few weeks ago, a Maugham reader wrote a cheery email in reference to my husband's dilemma: "I don't suppose," he wondered, "that when they finally lock up that thing she's married to that she could go along with him." He is clearly not an O'Hara reader, or he would know that though such a misadventure of justice will not occur, for no earthly less than his wish would do. M

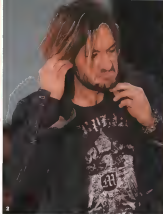
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Sinus relief at night. Sinus relief during the day. Have we overlooked anything?





1



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5



11

BANNED IN IRAN? NO WONDER.

Police in Iran have told barbers that Western-style Iranians are to stop according to the strictest news agency DNA. men will no longer be allowed to ask for the cut and style of Hollywood stars or other celebrities. It denies young men, especially in the affluent parts of the capital Tehran, are paying too much attention to how they look. Barbers who don't comply may lose their operating permits. They may be onto something. Iran's out getting of men's hairstyles that should definitely be banned.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Developer Donald Trump | 7. Steve Van Zandt (The Sopranos' Silvio Dante) |
| 2. Country singer Keith Urban | 8. Rapper Frank Ocean |
| 3. Quebec Premier Jean Charest | 9. Country music star Willie Nelson |
| 4. Fred Li 5 radio personality Don Imus | 10. Chris Kenner of the Los Angeles Clippers |
| 5. Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones | 11. Radio personality Howard Stern |
| 6. Music producer Phil Spector | |



8



6



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9



7



Problems happen in any community. The sense MySpace is where all these bad things are happening is overblown.

MYSPACE CO-FOUNDERS TOM ANDERSON AND CHRIS DEWOLFE TALK WITH KATE FILLION ABOUT NARCISSISTS, CREEPS AND UNDERAGE USERS

Chris DeWolfe is CEO of MySpace. Tom Anderson is president. MySpace is now owned by News Corp.

Q Well, every new site is automatically linked to us as their first MySpace friend. How many MySpace friends do you have?

A I think around 70 million. **Q** And how many close friends do you have in real life?

A Probably four or five. **Q** Chris, your MySpace page is private, meaning that only people you've approved can see it. Why?

A Some people have private pages, some people have public pages. I have my better friends on the page, and I keep things pretty close for me in terms of commenting with those people and finding those people that I like to talk to as a regular basis.

Q Why do we need MySpace Canada when so many Canadians already use the site?

A We're now in 14 different countries. We recognize that there are big differences in culture in all countries. For example, in Japan, they seem to be very successful in blogging in groups and sharing information by network groups, whereas in the U.S. it's more of the individual person and the friends that are around them. Although the U.S. and Canada are probably more similar than any other countries that we've entered,

we realize there are differences. In every country we have a local manager to take on the ground, that really understands the culture and customs, and how people use the site. We just did this in January of this year, and our unique users have increased by 50 per cent. Something like the [Miley Cyrus] singer songstress [Paris] Watson exclusive video premiere that we're going to be unveiling next week will be super-popular among Canadian music aficionados, but people in the U.S. may not be as familiar with her.

Q As far as the American site there's an element of narcissism in the way a lot of people use MySpace, specifically users and twenty-somethings' boasting about how hot they are. Do you think there's something different about this generation because of the media they can use to express themselves?

A Yes, definitely. It's probably started off with the reality shows in the early '90s, probably with *The Real World*. Everyone wanted to be on that show, then everyone wanted to be on reality shows, and then the Internet came along and sort of deconstructed the ability to reach out to many people. On the positive side, it's definitely given emerging artists a way in, as it was discovered. It's really easy for people to "be famous" in a really old-fashioned way. I think social networking is one of the most mistakes that [as of] generation being selfish or self-involved, but what we've really seen is that people also use the site as a big way for charitable causes and making

the world a better place.

A To answer the question how people have changed, how culture has changed, a lot of it has to do with the digital camera and people being able to take pictures of themselves and represent themselves in different ways. Now, almost every mobile phone has a camera or video camera built into it as well, that's part becoming really commonplace.

Q Someone called MySpace "an eternal memory of our immaturity." People are angry public with information that used to be considered really private, and once it's out there, there's no way to get it back. Did it occur to you when you launched in 2004 that parents and employers would use MySpace as a form of surveillance, looking at what pages to see what's really going on in their lives?

A It wasn't something that either of us thought about because of course to reach that level requires a huge user base. I know that people have used it for that reason, employers take a look, but I wouldn't really call it surveillance. I think people do have a sense that what they put out there is going to be seen by the public.

Q Chris, previously, "MySpace is all about letting people be what they want to be." What if what they want to be is selfish or racist?

A We clearly have some of racism that doesn't allow users to do those kinds of things. And we've exercised a lot of money to ensuring, to the degree that we can, that our terms of service are met.

Q Why doesn't what's different about how

many drivers are there and how much do they delete a day?

A We're not giving those statistics out right now, but you could say that a very significant portion of our traffic is devoted to customer support, security and safety. We actually receive every image that gets uploaded to our site.

Q Do you think there's more bullying because of sites like MySpace?

A That's a really tough question. It's not like I hang out at high schools and have a sense of how much bullying is going on, but I don't think it's a problem that is any different 50 years down the line [off line]. Fortunately, online, the consequences are probably easier to deal with because we can just remove the page and then it's gone, whereas the bullying that happens in person might turn into some sort of physical encounter.

Q People are also concerned about kids putting private, identifying information on the Web that leaves them open to predators, and in fact the families of several teenage girls in the U.S. are suing MySpace because their kids were sexually assaulted by people they met on the site. Do you ever lose sleep about something like that happening on MySpace?

A The lawsuit mentioned was actually dismissed by the local judge. This decision reaffirms that under federal law Internet sites like MySpace cannot be held liable for content posted by, or wrongdoings committed by, users who visit our site. **Q** The safety and security piece of the lawsuit is one that we take very seriously. We've limited the ability with which older users can talk to younger users on the site. We have algorithms where we're moderating older users [MySpace is limited to users aged 13 and older], we have people going through all the algorithms on a daily basis and detecting those profiles that fit their criteria. We're also lobbying to make it as mandatory for sex offenders to have their names in a database. We've done a lot of public service announcements and trying to get the word out about using the Internet safely, and I think that's the most important thing, so not only do we use our best to educate parents and teach our users, but we encourage it as well.

Q What's the best thing you've been disappointed that's happened on or because of the site?

A One thing I would call the Bar to Bar Project that would assemble all their friends through MySpace, get together and make burritos, and get them out to the house. They responded reasonably—actually more than we expected. And over there's called the Bulked Project. Certainly there's thousands

of not thousands of examples where a crowd has been made on MySpace, or a musician got huge. Lily Allen was once signed by Capitol Records, and she emerged major a year and a half ago mainly through MySpace. U2, and now she's the top-selling artist.

Q It seems almost crazy. I got an email about families that have found their child, having been separated at birth, or they'd lost touch throughout the years. I was just thinking about a guy who was in a band that had a very large friendship because of his band's profile. His father got sick and they needed blood donors, he passed a bulletin and all the different fans of his band and personal friends of his were donating blood to help keep his father alive.

A I got messages all the time from families of soldiers in Iraq who use MySpace.

Q Why MySpace instead of email?

A Because it's really a way for them to communicate with a large group. They can communicate all their friends from the U.S. or Canada or wherever, and post a blog about what's going on, and post pictures. If they want to send an individual message, they can just click on their picture and send a message.

Q Is there a commonly reported factual error about MySpace, or something that it's mistakenly creating in the back of your head, that you are repeated over and over?

A I think one that I wish the crime line of questioning, just went through, all these problems and security issues. Those that happen in any large community. There's 70 million people on MySpace, that's like, the size of the state of Canada [people aren't walking around suing the police in Canada as they are responsible for [similar security problems]]. Of course they are, everybody takes responsibility in a community. But the sense that MySpace is the place where all these bad things are happening is truly overblown.

A It's this jealousy and people like conflict. Anxiety about the race thing just told you is not encouraging to people.

Q Chris, you just recently became a parent, right?

A Yes.

Q This is a couple of years off, but if your child were spending hours online every day would that be okay with you?

A I wouldn't be too strict. I think the best is to have, growing up right now, it's never been a parent. They're learning the basics of life, they're in all this stuff, so they know how to use the Internet safely, and they know how to go to the police safely, how to go to school safely, how to treat other people.

Q The truth is, we weren't starting the site prior to starting MySpace, we'd had successful businesses before. It's certainly not to make money off of it and become financially successful, but really the fun of it was to build this site and then continue to be the fun of it. I think both of us hope to work at MySpace for a while more in the future, even though we've already sold the company.

Q What's your biggest fear?

A I like spending time at the beach. It's a lot of people have been giving me free clothes lately. It's good because I hate shopping.

Q In a fairly short period of time you've launched a record label, a privately focused channel, Impact, and signed deals with Mark Zuckerberg for a new political rally show. Do you



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welcome to the human network

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ever feel that by expanding on this way you're doing much more than MySpace was on initially all about user generated content?

A I think MySpace is all about different communities connecting with each other around shared interests. And I think while we're talking about politics and the issues surrounding you in a global basis, those are all around people want to connect about.

Q What's the most unusual use of the site you've heard of?

A The couple trying to find a baby for adoption, that was just last week. I think that kind of takes the cake.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY JILLIAN KAPLAN/GETTY IMAGES

BEIJING IS ALWAYS WATCHING

Chinese-Canadians say spies have been monitoring and intimidating them

BY CHARLIE GILLES • For Mehmet Tahir, it was the Canadian equivalent of the mid-night knock on the door. The phone rang in his Mississauga apartment shortly before bedtime, and on the other end of the line was his mother Tahirna, who lives in the northern Chinese city of Kaifeng. The sound of her voice made his heart jump. Tahir, a Uyghur activist who was raised in China in the late 1960s, hadn't seen his mother in 16 years, and the two had rarely spoken by phone. But they hardly had time to exchange greetings before she handed the phone to a man who—disguising with all politeness in himself—was scolding Tahir about his political activities.

The official, who identified himself only as a member of China's infamous Overseas Affairs Commission, laid a laundry list of instructions. Tahir was to cease efforts to send sympathy in Canada to the Uyghurs—the oppressed, largely Muslim population of Xinjiang province that has become a thorn in Beijing's side, he was to stop spreading allegations of cultural genocide against the People's Republic, most importantly, he was not to attend an upcoming conference in Germany where Uyghur groups from around the world planned to form an international congress. "We have your mother here, and your brother too," the activist cryptically said, but that police had driven the past year also lay in a regional police headquarters in Kashgar to help deliver Beijing's message. "We can do whatever we want."

Indeed. In the three years since that night, the 41-year-old Tahir has had enough dealings with China's long armed security apparatus to avoid Beijing's agents are still doing much to they please—not just in China, but in Canada, too. The incidents have ranged from more than phone calls, he says, to one unsettling encounter last October, in which three Chinese men spent a night watching his suburban home through the windows of a black SUV. The men hung around until



Uyghur activists such as Karyem Massimov have been targeted with ingenious methods

about 1:30 a.m., says Tahir, and for days afterward he couldn't sleep. After complaining about the incident to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, as well as the Department of Foreign Affairs, he moved into a condominium with 24-hour surveillance. "I no longer feel secure in Canada," he told federal officials. He's not alone. The Taiwanese government, Tibetan Canadians and Falun Gong practitioners have all reported incidents of spying or intimidation (or both) under the past few years. And while Ottawa has reportedly closed seven windows to the Chinese embassy, nothing seems to work. With the 2008 Summer Games in the offing, some critics believe Beijing is actually ramping up covert activities against Canadians besides aid groups to help ease criticism of its human rights record during the Olympics. These activities range from in-person visits

Jinxi Zheng, an accountant who worked at the embassy and the wife of a Chinese diplomat, said reporters that said there had been a special unit to collect information on groups like the Uyghurs, Tibetans and Falun Gong. Zheng, herself a practitioner of Falun Gong, also smuggled out a document registering that the embassy had produced a letter writing campaign in the CBC in hopes of swiping the license application of a Chinese language TV station in Montreal and anti-Communist. Her husband has been sent home to China in disgrace, but Zheng, who's now cleared refugee status, has kept up her efforts. "I just hope so that the Chinese embassy was doing bad things," she told the Ottawa Citizen. "I want to reveal their lies."

Not everyone, however, is feeling so brave when it comes to revealing Beijing. Several Chinese expatriates who last week received harassing calls of threats and intimidation

asked met to be identified as Maohua's for fear of no private against relations they left behind. Others worried about their own safety—though there are no known incidents of violence by Beijing's agents on Canadian soil. Nearly all agree that Canadians need to be better informed about the espionage going on inside their own borders.

Uyghurs, in particular, have been feeling vulnerable in recent months. The arrest of Husein Gali, the Burlington, Ont., train who was sentenced to life in a Chinese prison last month, provided many how clearly Beijing follows their movements. Friends of Gali point out that the 37-year-old participated in several Uyghur demonstrations in favor of the Chinese consulate in Toronto, where consulate staff photographed or video taped him at times. Then, in June 2006, he was arrested at China's border during a visit with his wife in Uzbekistan—a capture so

the same call, he says, and given his family's long history of dissent toward Beijing, even way to capture winter relatives. "They just say you're in prison for life," says Salim, whose fellow Uyghurs regard as an older statesman.

TIBETAN-CANADIAN protest in Toronto, while Folan Gong members stand vigil in Ottawa (lower left), Chinese police



Massimov, a Montreal-based organizer for the Uyghur Association of Canada, began receiving emails in 2004 that were so intensely disguised as messages from other Uyghurians that he at first he never felt a threat. Then, after a friend opened an attachment to one, Massimov's hard drive quickly filled with digital trash. "I've already lost one laptop once," says the 33-year-old. "Now, I'll get a message from someone I know, I'll phone and ask if they sent it." Proving a connection to the embassy here is probably impossible, Massimov concedes, but he's not the only one who's been hit.

The tactic is known as a



'We have your mother here, and your brother too,' the police told one Uyghur activist, in a late-night call from China. 'We can do whatever we want.'

reasonably occurred that Gali's advisors believe it must have originated on Canadian soil. "We suspected all of that about the Chinese Husein came on the radio of the Chinese authorities was because of someone here," says Chris MacLeod, Gali's Canadian lawyer. "Obviously, they monitored him and they knew he was traveling. They certainly didn't want other Uyghurs speaking publicly about the case. I guess this is their way of sending a message."

Since then, members of the 410-strong Uyghur community have reacted nervously on their own terms of vigilance—some of them as obvious as the surveillance of Gali, some of them much more subtle. Forty-five-year-old Salim (not his real name) recalls a September 2006 phone call from the embassy's wife informing him his Chinese passport was the 50th anniversary of the Communist revolution. None of the fellow Uyghurs received

of sorts. "They've had an arrest warrant out for me since 1997. Why would I want to do anything to do with China?"

Salim's mind raced. Did they plan to arrest him during a party on embassy property? Would they poison him? He also suspects China's secret police really hoped to catch him at the party in blunt criticism they're pressuring toward Uyghurs. In any case, they had given clearly demonstrated they knew where he lived, and they didn't want him to have his police refuse. The official called him back three times and a few days later a written copy of the detention appeared in his mailbox. "I don't mind telling you I was afraid," says Salim. Efforts to silence those who speak the loudest to criticize dissent against China have been equally crafty, and effective. Karyem

Massimov, a Montreal-based organizer for the Uyghur Association of Canada, began receiving emails in 2004 that were so intensely disguised as messages from other Uyghurians that he at first he never felt a threat. Then, after a friend opened an attachment to one, Massimov's hard drive quickly filled with digital trash. "I've already lost one laptop once," says the 33-year-old. "Now, I'll get a message from someone I know, I'll phone and ask if they sent it." Proving a connection to the embassy here is probably impossible, Massimov concedes, but he's not the only one who's been hit. The tactic is known as a

All this said, it has taken Canada's spy agency an unconscionably long time to point a finger at Bugging, or any other undesirable government. For years, CSIS has stuck to its policy of not naming countries it investigates, while victims



"individuals come to us all the time, but much of what we find is going to be classified and we're not going to be able to share it." CSIS director John Judd was hit hard by backstabbing before a Senate committee on Monday, acknowledging that Chinese operatives account for nearly half the agency's domestic counter-intelligence work. "It's surprising sometimes the number of hypocrites, coming up to hear and where they

The arrest of activist Huseyin Celil was because of 'activities here,' says his lawyer. 'Obviously they were monitoring him.'

who report incidents often never hear back from the agency who take down their stories. As late as last week, spokeswoman Barb Campbell was sticking to the script, saying CSIS does investigate reports of foreign interference but avoiding specific mention of China. (As for leaving complaints hanging, Campbell cited operational reasons

come first," he said, referring to the use of visitors as spies. But he provided little detail about the breadth and scope of China's activities, and even less in the way of reassurance. "As one of my foreign counterparts said once, in this business you spend most of your time worrying about what you don't know," he said. "That would certainly apply here as well."

The disclosure struck a blow across Parliament Hill—and presumably through the Chinese embassy (reported calls by Mailbot to the mission went unanswered, as did calls last week to Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay). But to those paying close attention, Judd was mostly corroborating numerous anecdotal reports of Beijing stretching its tentacles throughout Canada's expensive Chinese community in June 2005. For instance, a former Chinese embassy official who taught asylum in Toronto alleged that the Chinese government had roughly 1,000 spies operating in this country—many of them monitoring Chinese students and scientists who are here on visas. Less than a month later, Guangsheng Hui, a 55-year-old former security official, came forward in Ottawa to say Beijing was recruiting informants here to keep watch on dissidents. "They're very interested in what happens in the ethnic Chinese community in Canada," he told Canadian Press. "They pay a lot of attention."

Ughat activists, in contrast, proudly wield a 1994 directive issued last year from the Chinese Communist Party, which appears to show that China's strategy of interference and infiltration is at least 10 years old. The memo, known as Document No. 7, instructs officials in foreign missions to "establish bases in the regions or cities with high Chinese or overseas Chinese populations" and to "collect information on related developments." "The especially vigilant aspect and prevent by all means the outside sabotage forces from making the [Uyghur] problem international," it says.

None of this should come as a surprise to those who follow China on the world stage, says Yuen Pau Woo, president of the Vancouver-based Asia Pacific Foundation. "All countries have an interest in monitoring the activities of overseas nationals," he notes, "as well as activities that affect the homeland." And while the relatively large size of Canada's 6-million-strong Chinese community make it an attractive espionage target, it's also because unique in having Chinese spies on hand. The good news, says Woo, is that China quickly learning the rules of chess and spies. "They're becoming more sophisticated," he says. "They're starting to use the tools of soft power."

Perhaps. But those who feel the eyes of Beijing upon them today say that China has a long way to go. The case of Cellil is another example of how distant official communications are to the lives of the victims, they note, and what the kind of freedom they appear to have at first dissolved as they no longer an option for Ottawa, ignoring them in the end will almost certainly require equal resolve. The first step, of course, is admitting we have a problem. ■



BAIRD launches the Harper government's environmental plan: a study in the benefits of political correctness

DOING IT BAIRD'S WAY

Political pilledriver John Baird has a new plan of attack for Kyoto fans

BY JOHN GEDDIS — An ex-critic of the Environment Minister John Baird said yesterday that Baird isn't a weak leader for good TV. Baird's own set of pro-consumer products show in Toronto, working the floor the day after he made his last announcement on ending greenhouse gas emissions. Baird was there being Suzuki. The broadcaster cut through the crowd to confront the politician.

"It's a disappointment, John," he said in the mild but sensitive tone perfect in so many The Nature of Things narrations. Baird came back with, "This is more about our government in Canada's history has over taken," but Suzuki was having it. "It's not enough, John," he said, displaying the mayor's first secret again in a way that he once disarmingly carried and deftly rolled himself.

There is history between them. After Stephen Harper appeared here early this year to what was shaping up to be his last cabinet post, Baird wanted no more association with the country's most famous environmentalist. He was opposed to the prime minister's building that is the unexpected flip side of Baird's known-as public person. "I said that," he says before Baird could make to Kyoto commitment. "Baird, in an inter-

view, rolled along Suzuki. "He passed and said, 'I don't know.'" Baird found it remarkable that Suzuki didn't react the distance that Kyoto's targets must be met to another. "When the biggest environmentalist in the country can't look the environment minister in the face and say, 'Yes, we can do this,' that surprised me," he said. "I thought he was being very honest."

That question—whether adhering Kyoto is still possible or not—looms over the job Baird is now struggling to finish. Under the treaty, Canada is committed to cutting greenhouse gas emissions to six per cent below 1990 levels by 2012. But nothing much was done to achieve that during the Jean Chretien years, when emissions were allowed to keep climbing, leaving the Toronto chairman job. Baird says it's an impossible one. So his first past last week was to change the basic

scenario debate, addressing how targets and timelines for the Kyoto ones. This was the point he tried to get Suzuki to bridge on in this prime minister. And it was the subject for that very public exchange that signalled Suzuki-like the rest of the environmental movement, the opposition parties, and even Al Gore—would not carry on Baird's own post Kyoto goals rules.

Yet Baird looked confident last week, he was hardly beaten. The contrast between him and Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor, the

that seemed to maintain a momentum despite an embarrassing leak and late intervention by cabinet and global warming crusader. Baird's first meeting, a week before his campaign April 26 announcement, was to put his opponents on the defensive by releasing an impact study projecting 275,000 new jobs by 2009 if Canada tried to achieve the Kyoto target. Baird sounded up independent economists, including the Toronto Dominion Bank's widely quoted Don Drummond, a former top federal finance official, to validate his gains accounting of the economic costs.

He was in a bit of a bind in the days that followed. Earth Day, April 22, found him going into the hard day of the year at Lake

HE HAS A SIGN ON HIS DESK SAYING 'IT CAN BE DONE'—JUST LIKE THE ONE RONALD REAGAN HAD ON HIS

view. Public School in his Ottawa riding to help plant 10,000 maple trees. He surprised the media, and the Opposition, with a proposal to ban incandescent light bulbs, in favour of more efficient compact fluorescent, by 2012, putting his name and the cost added to any other story before he released his climate-change policy. Baird, through carefully staged events, even the crown link of his big green house gas speech (a copy was found by a newly hired office worker to the Opposition lobby of the House) didn't throw

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hire off his game—much. “Was I angry, was I disappointed, was I upset?” Yes,” he says. “Did I yell, did I scream? No.”

Not that the image of Baird yelling and screaming in loud to conserve up. He slips into full-on rant, full-throttle mode early in the House. A big man with a hoarse voice and a commanding stare, he likes to say he “likes as good as he gets.” And he has made a specialty of taking on jobs that put him in the hot of fire. In Ontario politics, his first important assignment from then on was

But for every story about Baird bellowing there’s another about his intellectuality. John Baird, a veteran activist and executive director of the Climate Action Network, describes Baird as a confidant in the years when his sessions with activists are as productive as a recent meeting with climate change campaigners. He says Baird has a “combative” nature from the start, but he’s made a specialty of taking on jobs that put him in the hot of fire. “It was the weirdest meeting with

BAIRD'S BLUSTER, ONE ACTIVIST SAYS, MAKES IT HARD TO ENGAGE IN SERIOUS GIVE-AND-TAKE



BAIRD sought to build a bridge to Suzuki

When Harper decided to dump Rona Ambrose as environment minister, Baird's capacity to both advance a file behind the scenes and fend off attacks on the House must have looked like the system's full utility, the replacement. He's also a workhorse, although at a single man he finds enough five evenings to serve as a stand-in for Lester B. Pearson when the Prime Minister isn't available. In recent his wife to Ontario model farm team. Most importantly, he proved his loyalty by quelling a soft seat in provincial politics to co-chair Baird's campaign in the 2004 election. And he is a close ally of Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, a fellow veteran of Harris's Ontario regime, whose support would be visible in any serious new environmental regulation to this night after the economy.

But for all his experience, toughness and connections, Baird has not been able to bring the sort of two-to-ten players outside the Conservative fold that made his handling of the Access to Information Act last year so intriguing. “The politics of the environment, the politics within the environmental community, are so strong,” he says. “You’re either perfect or you’re not.” He sees a lot of conservative engagement across party lines. NDP Leader Jack Layton persuaded Baird to take a second look at Kyoto International emissions trade and mechanisms, a system under which companies in Canada can trade for contributing to emissions reductions abroad. Baird admits he had written off the concept until Layton pressed him to reconsider. “He said, ‘Would you do me a favour and just look at this?’ I said sure,” Baird said. “You know, it wasn’t half bad.” It incorporated the system into his revamped policy.

FOR THE RECORD

A SECOND POLITICAL GENERATION GETS TO WORK. He would have thought of it, and I guess I can't control my own. My father would have worried about his son going into politics, but he would have blessed it, of course. “A Tony and Alexander Trudeau on how his father, Alexander James minister Philip Elliott Trudeau would have reacted to Alexander's brother, Justin, winning the nomination for the Liberal party in the Montreal riding of Repulse last Sunday.

He is 26 to 32 per cent by 2030, and that's after the U.S. substantially reduced a cap on its own power while Canada's has soared. Another concern that suggests Baird's house is open to doubt. France expects to shrink its greenhouse gas emissions to 20 per cent by 2050, the year that Baird's timetable will only begin to impose any regulatory restrictions at all, and even then reaching close to what it would take to reduce Canadian levels to 20 per cent.

His critics say his plan to achieve his goal is even more problematic. It calls for major industries to shrink their greenhouse gas emissions by 60 megatonnes in 2020, from somewhere between 100 and 400 megatonnes in 2006. Yet his proposed regulations to accomplish this don't explicitly cap emissions or impose a reduction. Instead, he relies on so-called intensity targets, which would force companies to limit their emissions relative to their output. But environmental groups say regulating intensity alone will only slow the increase in greenhouse gas output. “These regulations are designed to allow emissions to grow,” Bennett says.

Don't bet on Baird backing down any time soon. He was still outwitting a fellow hawk on the weekend. When Goss called his package “a total failure,” he didn't hesitate to slam the former U.S. vice president for never trying to rally Kyoto. But Baird has no time for a December is hardly surprising, he keeps an “it can be done” sign on his desk, just like the one Ronald Reagan's famously had on his.

In fact, U.S. politics is much on Baird's mind as he tries to set a new climate change course. He's most upset when pushing a plan to negotiate so-called “climate pact” with the George W. Bush administration to synchronize new car and truck emissions rules on both sides of the border. It's climate Baird, aggressively pushing the most controversial agenda item while the last one is still very much in play. “I got involved in politics to make a difference, to do big, bold things,” he says. “I didn't come to shuffle paper and be a bureaucrat.” He's being accused of many things as the environment file heats up, but even by his worst enemies, never that.

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Are Canadian Businesses Generous and Engaged in Community Life?

'In a word, yes. Our survey of 2,500 Canadian businesses will tell us how.'

Georgina Strinsky-Schwartz, President and CEO of Imagine Canada talks to Lisa Havel about corporate citizenship in Canada



A: First and foremost they contribute financially to the charities and nonprofits that speak most directly to them and their employees. Employees are key here. In fact 92% of employees want to be involved in their company's social responsibility in some way.

Businesses today create conditions for their employees to volunteer in the community. This has a huge impact that our upcoming research will help us to fully understand. Businesses also sponsor events and give "in kind" donations lending their expertise, products and services to community groups. The scope of business contributions is huge. We intend to shed light on the full picture when we release our findings in the fall. We want to capture the scope of business support and ultimately the impact on the community.

Q: Businesses are obviously in the business of making money. But increasingly we hear about the importance of an expanded bottom line—one that recognizes a business's role as a member of the community is far more than just window dressing?

A: It used to be about "checkbook philanthropy" simply responding to requests for donations. Now it's much more strategic. Businesses are building significant partnerships with nonprofit organizations that are designed to have a measurable impact on the community.

Q: So you're saying that businesses can directly affect our quality of life. How do they do it?

Q: What do you mean by "community," exactly, and what does "impact" look like?

A: I'm referring to all of us really—wherever we live and however we live in places big and small across the country. We all need and benefit from clean air and water, safe communities, access to theatre and other forms of cultural expression, opportunities for physical activity and civic engagement. Canada's 15,000 nonprofit organizations provide the backbone that supports healthy and vibrant communities. When businesses invest in them they improve the lives of all Canadians.

How Business Gives

The Landscape of Community Investment in Canada

By Julia Havel

Businesses have long been engaged in community life. Red Lohr of the NC Institute for Corporate Citizenship said at the University of Toronto's Joseph L. Rotman School of Management conference in 1970 when King Charles II authorized a Royal Charter creating "The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England."

trading with Hudson's Bay," Lohr says. But it is much more than the birth story of a great empire.

Rather, it can be considered the beginning of corporate citizenship in Canada. "Canada was governed, ran and managed by a chartered company," Lohr says. "People sometimes wonder about the role a corporation could play in society, how far it could go. Well, it can go really far."

While we have a long history of commerce and community working hand in hand, the idea of professionalizing the practice is a relatively new phenomenon.

Imagine Canada's Caring Company program understands this and has

developed a framework that recognizes the myriad ways businesses can have an impact on the community, and serves as a catalyst to stimulate increased community investment from Canadian businesses. Since 1998, Imagine Canada's Caring Company program has utilized a benchmark to encourage Canadian businesses to contribute a minimum of 1% of pre-tax profits to the community.

"Our members are doing some really innovative work. They're setting the standard for best practice in community involvement. And the exciting thing is

that businesses from multinational corporations to medium-sized companies and small owner-operated local businesses are getting involved," says Jocelyne Goss, Vice President, Marketing and Social Engagement who oversees the Caring Company program from Imagine Canada's Calgary office. While the practice of community involvement may still be relatively new, as with our early example, the impact and impact on the community is extraordinary.

Thank you to everyone who walked with us on May 6th and who made sure that when kids need to let it all out, they have a better way.

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D'Arcy Lescaze, Vice President, Public and Government Affairs, Enbridge Inc.

1 Inventing strategically in children and youth

Kids Help Phone needs our support to ensure that the organization can respond to the growing number of kids seeking professional counseling and advice by phone or online," said Kevin Crail, President, Residential Services, Bell Canada. "Bell is committed to helping children and youth reach their potential and Kids Help Phone is there to help them along the way."

2 Stimulating in-kind gifts

Coopers-Office Supply Company Ltd. in Toronto took action to fight poverty and homelessness by donating excess office furniture. This quickly grew to donations from other companies of household products, clothing and food, resulting in millions of dollars in donated goods and services. Company President David Cooper adds, "We've helped 10 small charities who have been a bit to embark funds designated for capital purchases like

responsibility to ensure that this happens," says D'Arcy Lescaze, Vice President, Public and Government Affairs, Enbridge Inc.

4 Employee-matched charitable giving

EnCana employees demonstrate their commitment to the communities where they work and live every day. The EnCana Cares program matches dollar for dollar every charitable gift given by an employee, up to \$15,000 per employee per year. In 2006, EnCana and its employees contributed over \$4 million through this program to charities and nonprofit organizations. "Our employees tell us how much they value the opportunity to shape our company's community investment work," says Florence Murphy, Vice President, Public and Community Relations.

5 Product sales to raise awareness and money

Hic has developed several



A HISTORY OF STORIES

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10 WAYS Caring Company Leaders Give Today

Imagine



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structure straight to strategically needed programs."

3 Aiding economically challenged customers

In Ontario, Enbridge Gas Distribution is committed to providing assistance to its customers who have a genuine inability to pay for their energy. Since the Winter Warmth Fund was launched in 2004, together with Toronto Hydro and the United Way, Enbridge has helped hundreds of families. "We believe everyone is entitled to energy to fuel everyday living and we recognize that we have a

unique product-focused programs that support a variety of causes. Through the sale of products such as Charity Wash, Think Pink blankets and Hic Run for Canada performance athletic socks, Enbridge customers the ability to directly support causes that matter to them. "These retail product programs allow our customers to select the cause that's most meaningful to them, and the product they purchase serves as a reminder of their chosen cause," says Diane Gordon, Director, Hic Community Investment.

"Bell is committed to helping children and youth reach their potential and Kids Help Phone is there to help them along the way."

Kevin Crail, President, Residential Services, Bell Canada



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"Our medicines have helped improve the lives of thousands of children and adults in Malawi, Afghanistan and other parts of the developing world."

John Helios, Vice-President, Public Affairs of Pfizer Canada

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- Community sponsorships for public benefit
- Support for employee volunteerism

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Researchable participant, Business Contributions to Canadian Communities: Findings from a Qualitative Study of Current Practices - 2007, Imagine Canada Press # 100011. For National Bureau - to be released in 2008. For more details visit www.imaginecanada.ca

6 National/local office collaboration tackles a single issue

The Investors Group's head office in Winnipeg partnered with the Canadian Association of Food Banks to support its work by mobilizing local offices. Its staff from across the country also assist the needs of their local food banks to create investments and generate significant funds and food. "Getting our local offices involved has contributed to both food banks and employee morale," says Richard Irish, Assistant Vice-President, Community Affairs & Asset Marketing.

7 Mobilizing staff to raise funds

As a company driven by innovation, Paladin Labs of Montreal applied their marketing savvy to create an original and winning fundraising event. In just six months the Texas Hold 'Em Charity Championship raised \$400,000 and involved the entire company. "We wanted to involve as many people as possible," says Jonathan Goodman, CEO and President, Paladin Labs Inc., "to give them a taste of giving back."

8 Donating products to the developing world

In partnership with aid organization Health Partners International of Canada, Pfizer Canada has contributed \$20 million in medicines to countries in need. "We are committed to working for a healthier

world," says John Helios, Vice-President, Public Affairs of Pfizer Canada. "Our medicines have helped improve the lives of thousands of children and adults in Malawi, Afghanistan and other parts of the developing world."

9 Paying employees to volunteer

Sharon Wilkins, CEO and President of Sandstone Asset Management, has ensured that 40 hours of annual paid volunteer time is written into each worker's contract. "We're a small firm. We have limited staffing, time and money. Every single individual in our company is involved."

10 Balancing conservation with responsible development

Suncor Energy and the Alberta Conservation Association have formed a unique partnership to advance the conservation of ecologically significant portions of Alberta's boreal forest. "We started out as two unlikely partners - a large energy company and a nonprofit environmental group," says Kirby Glover, Director, Suncor Energy Foundation. "But through a joint advisory committee, we have developed strong working relationships and a shared vision that have enabled us to make significant progress on habitat conservation." The Foundation has committed \$5.05 million to the three-year partnership.

For a full list of Imagine Canada Caring Company members visit imaginecanada.ca

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BLAIR has been referred to as Bush's "poodle," and few British politicians are willing to back getting smeared with the same charge

Will you still love me tomorrow?

The U.S.-U.K. friendship is in doubt after the Blair-Bush era

BY MICHAEL PETROU • It was an unlikely romance from the start: George W. Bush and Tony Blair came from different ends of the political spectrum and there little in common when it comes to their personalities, other than deep Christian faith and a mutual aversion to the way they are prepared to back up with force. But men can strengthen even the most star-crossed relationships, and the United Kingdom and the United States, under the leadership of Blair and Bush, have been through two major and ongoing crises together in Afghanistan and Iraq.

On the eve of the Iraq war, Blair's government appeared to be on the brink of collapse as the prime minister faced a revolt from within his own party over his decision to support the American-led invasion. Bush called his ally and offered Blair the option of backing out of the coalition. "I said I've with you I mean it," Blair responded. Bush insisted that he would not let the United States walk out on the British claim to see Blair's government fall. Blair thanked him and ended the discussion. "I've them to the very end," he said.

Blair's commitment solidified a transatlantic alliance that has led the West's military response to militant Islam and has defined the way both countries engage with the world—by taking Britain's gaze westward, away from Europe, and by turning America from the seductive pull of isolationism. But today, more than four years later, "the very end" the name used which Blair pronounced Bush that he, and Britain, would stand with only with America, it is hard. Both leaders are approaching the end of their term in office, and their personal power and influence are diminishing accordingly. Their successors will likely have different agendas when it comes to the transatlantic alliance. The "special relationship" between the two nations is entering a period of uncertainty.

Blair, whose premiership may last only a few more weeks before he announces his retirement, is sure to be succeeded by Gordon Brown, the chancellor of the exchequer, a Paul Martin-like figure who has been the unofficial prime minister-in-waiting for so long he will almost certainly disappear when he finally takes office. Brown has not felt about Bush's relationship with the United States, but he is a right-of-center Labour Party socialist, and a growing number in the party doubt Blair for his close ties to Bush.

Brown, however, may not be prime minister for long. In a general election, he will face a formidable threat from David Cameron, the young and photogenic leader of the resurgent Conservative Party. The Conservative, under Margaret Thatcher, once owned neither Americans. Lastly, however, David Cameron has retained the old party's image—riding his bicycle to work, adopting the motto of environmentalism, and, more significantly, seeking an anti-Americanist in Britain. He claimed the 5th anniversary of Sept. 11 by stating that Britain's foreign policy since the terrorist attacks lacked "humility and respect," and he has called for a "realistic, not idealist."

TONY BLAIR TILTED BRITAIN'S GE WESTWARD, AND AWAY FROM EUROPE



BLAIR is a traditional Labour socialist.

relationship with the United States.

Cameron has been critical for each occasion by an old school Thatcherism in his opinion, but the voice is not dominant. This has led to concerns from American policy makers

and analysts that the United States will not be able to count on a Britain led by David Cameron. "The notion that the special relationship could be heading for the rocks is no longer fiction, but a realistic political reality," wrote Nick Holmes and Nick Gosselin, both of the Heritage Foundation think tank in Washington, in February.

The view from the other side of the Atlantic also predicts a weakening of the Atlantic Ocean after Tony Blair leaves office. "The general feeling here is that whoever is in Number 10 next will be less easy with the United States," said Robert McGowan, an associate fellow at the Chatham House think

CAMERON wants a 'realist, not idealist' relationship



tank, in an interview with Maclean's. "In other words, there has been simply no ready political capital expended on being a very good ally of the United States, and I think all British political personalities are not going to be hostile by any means, but they will simply distance themselves away from what has been called the poodle phenomenon of Tony Blair."

McGowan insisted to add that Blair followed the United States into Afghanistan and Iraq because he was convinced that both were wrong, not out of tilt games to the United States. "He's not an American poodle at all. He believes in getting rid of Saddam Hussein. He believes in changing things to the Middle East. But it looks like he's too loyal to Bush to be an independent thinker."

Blair himself has responded to the "poodle" charge by quipping, "It's worse than that. I believe so." Nevertheless, the image of Tony Blair being a subservient Britain who was at the beck of the United States has stuck, and few British politicians are willing to risk getting smeared with the same charge.

Blair, in a recent interview with the British historian Timothy Garton Ash, took a veiled swipe at any successor who would advise greater distance from the United States. Demanding an independent foreign policy to be a great aspiration, he said, but in reality it is a recipe for diminished influence in the world. Blair's political opponents may be forced to admit he has agonized. If a successor were to advise greater distance from the United States, Cameron would likely be seen as an Afghani than he is now, McGowan said, "because he doesn't have to worry about getting the votes from those who think that the British should not be so close to America as Blair has been."

Meanwhile, America's relations with other members of the European Union have improved slightly since their entry to the international after much of the Iraq war. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has worked hard to repair bridges with the United States that were damaged during the crisis of Bush's predecessor, Gerhard Schröder. And American may find an unexpected ally in France as Nicolas Sarkozy, the elected president, disavowed. As a member this week in Washington between the European Union and the United States, diplomats from both sides of the Atlantic were keen to highlight how well everyone was getting along.

No other country, however, is poised to take Britain's place as America's premier partner in world affairs, regardless of the rough patches that may loom ahead in the immediate future. The ties between the two countries are far more complex than the bonds formed between Tony Blair and George W. Bush. "This is not just a strategically, but politically, economically, culturally, linguistically, heritage and so on," McGowan said. "The two governments have a special relationship, not only at the top, between the president and the prime minister, but down through the various layers of the state. Really, that's nothing like it in the world." ■

CHRIS JONES
A STORY OF LIFE AND DEATH IN SPACE

ON FEBRUARY 1, 2003, TEN ASTRONAUTS WERE ORBITING THE PLANET. SEVEN WERE HEADED BACK TO EARTH ON THE SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA. THEY NEVER MADE IT. AND THE THREE MEN LEFT BEHIND FOUND THEMSELVES TOO FAR FROM HOME.

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Standing up for Turkish secularism

BY DAFNA IZREBERG • Life in Istanbul as Ghani Pasha moved in Turkey this week when the military thought of taking a coup to protect Turkish secularism. The army issued its statement after a parliamentary vote nearly elected the ruling Islamist party AK's long-awaited cousin, Abdullah Gül, as Turkey's new president. Hundreds of thousands of similarly concerned secular Turkey took to the streets of Ankara and Istanbul. In the end, Turkey's constitutional court annulled Gül's win (he was 10 votes short of a two-thirds majority), and the government issued a statement that parliamentary elections may be moved up to June from November.

Tasavvufi, professor of political science at Koc's University College in the University of Western Ontario, believes the ruling Islamist party will remain in government and that Gül, the current foreign minister who is well respected both in Turkey and abroad, will ultimately become president through an elected democratic process. "They look at some of their opponents, and they are afraid," says Izbekchi of the secularists. "They look at him, and they exaggerate their fears."

Izbekchi believes the ruling party is more interested in rebuilding Turkey than in the high-mosque women are prohibited from wearing headscarves in universities and government buildings—than on requiring all women to wear them. He points to the fact that the current secularist president vetoed legislation to the president's power from the high-ranking wives of religious politicians, including the spouse of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Izbekchi himself is a secularist Turkish Cypriot, calls the high ban "unacceptable," although he points out that the idea of a woman wearing a headscarf in public, hardly the regime's favored founder Kemal Ataturk, is anathema to Turkey who prize their country's secular freedoms. As for the possibility of the military stepping in, "In my view, it's really a curse on Turkey," says Izbekchi. "These guys are fanatics. In fact, if they have a God, it would be Kemal Ataturk."

A Goldilocks market awaits bear season

BY PATRICIA TERRELL • The bullheads run through the Spanish property market for years. Since the late '90s, a booming economy combined with low interest rates meant that home prices soared by an annual average of 15 per cent, even as millions of new properties were built. Now loan-owners worry that the bubble is bursting and the excitement could turn bloody. Last week, a shoulder went through Madrid's stock market after the share price of real estate firm Atresmedia plummeted by 50 per cent after reports of shady dealings. Real Estate of Spain's premier Miguel Hernandez Ordóñez issued a last-back response: "You know what the stock market is like. It's calm one day, goes up the next, goes down the day after. It's not always going to be rainy."

Since virtually all of the Spanish nation's mortgages are variable, the European Central Bank has already reflected pain in Spain as it raised interest rates seven times in the past 12 months. In January, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development cautioned that, with homes overvalued by 18 per cent and household debt at more than 120 per cent of disposable income, a sudden rate hike would trigger an "adjustment in which prices would plunge."

Spain's housing bubble is obvious—just go to the country's vacation towns now, where prices are higher than in France, Italy and Germany combined. Many of the coastal areas are shorted and prices are cooling. Adding to the concern over market stability are at least 12 construction cases after many housing projects were built in coastal reserves or without permits. While

some analysts believe the country can cope with tougher times, Clotilde Domínguez of London-based Stuart Research isn't so sure. "Spain now Goldilocks at her most beautiful. Sadly, it will now see the bears." ■

Moving war tribute causes bad blood

BY MICHAEL PETRO • Some wars just won't stay finished. In the autumn of 1944, the Soviet Red Army drove the last German troops from Estonia. The Russians called it a liberation. For most Estonians, however, the Red Army's arrival heralded the beginning of a brutal occupation that saw thousands murdered or deported to the gulags of Siberia. For them, the Second World War didn't really end until Estonia's re-independence in 1991.

Today, age-old divisions are once again forcing the neighbors to the surface. Last Friday the Estonian government removed a statue of a Soviet soldier from the name of the capital, Tallinn, and then moved it to a nearby military camp. The remains of Soviet troops captured from the original national site will also be moved to the cemetery. Ethnic Russians, who make up more than 25 per cent of Estonia's population, noted in protest. At least one person was killed.

What seems like a local incident has international implications. Estonia accuses Russia of provoking the move and has reportedly rejected Russian offers from entering the country to join the province. Russia says that Estonia is making its war dead. But according to Janet Brown, a professor of political science and international relations at the University of Toronto, Estonians are right to blame Russia for some war crimes. Moscow, he says, is engaged in "diplomacy by intimidation. It's part of a much larger part of a Russia that has become extremely aggressive, that wants to impose on it a Balkan States that once it has joined NATO and the EU, Russia is still dominant in the region," Brown says. "What the Russians are saying is that we can put pressure on these states. We can use the ethnic minority, or we can use oil or natural gas. We can use non-military tools. And therefore, you never remember. The constant message is that we do not allow. You will be punished, not me or the other. You will have been done badly. You will have to pay in Russia. These are very significant repercussions."



A MEMORIAL to Russian troops in Estonia has sparked riots

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GREEN REPORT

Walking Waters opened Ches Pinot in Berkeley, Calif., in 1997. "It was in the vanguard of a 'drank globally, eat locally' gastronomic uprising. Now, in brown-bottled wine, the restaurant is at the forefront of another social policy. Finally clating us to the fact that importing bottled water from Italy is a Pinot violation of its annuities, Ches Pinot has stopped serving Pinot still water last winter. It now serves flat, flavored tap water. When it gets a carbinerative up and running in the next week this will add fire to tap water; the restaurant will stop selling sparkling water. Minutale San Repolito."

The industry meets with a growing number of restaurants willing to forgo 100 percent plus markups on bottled water in return for increased customer loyalty. Mike Rossi, owner, Chef Pierre's general manager, says the ecological damage associated with hot-dog water spurred them to action. "It's one

kan larus, 60 larus per capite, with rates up 20 per cent last year. Routed water became a status signifier—Cameron Diaz favored Pura, Madonna preferred Viva Azeite Water Still, we've seen a poop made glance out by movie stars losing weight and acquiring stagers before—the cigarette, for one, the Hattori for another. If early indicators of buckshot are any sign, what was once a fish eye accessory is becoming a fashion main-

The obvious dining fad in greenly new Vegas. Now that we're shopping to save the Planet, using a natural resource that costs more than gasoline in a plastic bottle is too stupid to clog a landfill in a thousand years. Didn't exactly telegraph this one. Olive drabish water hats with "water accoutrements," like the one at right in Toronto's Royal York Hotel offering 25 international brands, and clearly seen passed, out of reach. Earlier this year, Times of London food critic Robert Carter announced his new diet: saltine; tomato baked water on his blog. Drinking it, he wrote, signals a gentle lack of global awareness. "The variety of White Ball's water"

Kennedy Restaurant, says he sources locally bottled water in glass bottles. "Why are we bringing in water from Fiji to a nation that's got more water than any other nation in the world?" he asks. "It's no fright, it's contributing carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. We all those things that if you're environmentally conscious in the year 2007 you totally question." He sells Gato water bottled in C

Even self-proclaimed "water commissioners" are extolling the virtues of tap water. The noted Boston-based food writer Corby Kummer, known for his appreciation of aquatic resources (he has proclaimed a preference for "water from the volcanic region between Rome and Naples"), says "it's time to rediscover municipal water." Unless he means spackling water, Kummer always asks for tap in restaurants.

**IT'S SO
NOT COOL**

Chi-chi restaurants are now banning bottled water. How did the ubiquitous accessory become the latest environmental sin?

BY ANNE KINGSTON

thing we wanted to do for a while," he says. "Finally I thought, 'This is silly: we have this great water that comes out of our tap.' This is something we really think we need to do. We feel it is the right thing to do."

Increasingly, the fashionable thing to do. For years, David Suzuki and his brethren have mobilized against the environmental evils of bottled water—the pollution generated and energy expended in its production and shipping, the unsightly plastic bottles (distinctly gay) spewed. More recently, church groups, including the United Church of Canada, have advocated members boycott the product on the moral grounds that water is a basic human right, not a commodity to be sold for profit. The odds now stack by the water works with much eco-pooling. After all, bottled water is strengthened as an icon of purity, health, morality and safety. No amount of righteous talk was chosen to mean people money.

Recently, however, the crown-to-the-top crowd has acquired momentum from the gourmands who once extolled bottled water's "volcanic nectariness" and "mouth feel." Even the French, who introduced portable Vittel water in plastic bottles in 1968, are saying "non" to Evian, with bottled water sales in decline since 2005.

The notion that a bottled-water backlash could gain velocity might seem absurd given worldwide consumption of 169 billion litres in 2005. Canadians spent \$612.7 million on bottled water that year, consuming 1.4 bil-

MORE THAN GASOLINE IN A BOTTLE DESTINED
TO CLOG A LANDFILL DOESN'T EXACTLY TELEGRAPH ECO-CRED

BLING H₂O (left), complete with Saccharose crystals; Sweet Shofar before her battle

runs. "I've long made it a point of peak as a sort of a counter-establishment order," he says. "Now I'm noticing other people coming to the same conclusion."

Tap-water filtration systems are a new boutique idea. Reggio in Staunton, Va., triple-filters its tap water with a system that costs \$180.00. Two friends sold Vaaston Pot & Groom Kitchens in Radnor, Pa., for \$100,000, partly on the high-tech filtration device. Then there are the purists. At Organic Restaurant Nara in Washington, they use salt, their carbon, then paper to create liposities. In an arid desert, where growing anything but water's new value, the Beverly Hills restaurant Enchanted has started charging \$1.00 for a liter of tap or sparkling water that flows straight from the filtered spigot. Kannerbents at the west American tap-water museum will take with you of his post to "build a new city here from the ground up. Water carries away the excess and the excess is not needed." He values the taste of tap water as being "perfect." "So perfect, because of the way it's created, it will save other people's, slightly chlorinated, and chemically or salt and bitter." He finds it superior to bottled water and even to municipal supplies. "That's not just filtered tap water," he says, "it's filtered tap water that they add proprietary minerals to. It tastes completely artificial."

Filtrated tap water accounts for more than one-quarter of bottled water consumed by

lice of them or puts up with water you wouldn't piss in, or already have, we have invented pots and yards, and vast amounts of money, into an ingenious system which cleanses water of all of the nasties that most other humans and animals have always had to put up with, and delivers it, dirt cheap, to our homes and workplaces in pipes, which we start across with a tap."

A tap water snobbery is emerging. Even restaurants unwilling to offer filtered water reverse boast of drinking from the tap as being "On the domestic front I refuse to buy it," says Toronto chef Mark McEwan, who operates the popular North 46 and Hyman. "The waste factor with these plastic bottles just makes me crazy," Jamie Kennedy, who runs several Toronto hot spots including Jamies

edon, Ont. The company designs and picks up the bottles for recycling, he says. "We're not creating any bottle waste, which is fantastic. And it's delicious," he Kennedy drinks unfiltered tap water. "I'm cool with it," he says. "It's pretty darn good."

Indeed, some agents tap water (bottled) as more palatable than tap water bottled offerings. Scott Kinnel says, "Our Panama employees serving locally produced bottled waters but found more more palatable than tap. Last year, officials in Cleveland took offense when Fiji Water crowed in ads that its product was free of pollutants and 'purified by island trade winds' with the punchline: 'The label says Fiji because it's not bottled in Cleveland.' A local TV show produced blind taste tests to find the subjects' preferred local tap water."

and have installed multiple copies of the same application on different machines. A single copy of the application is installed on the server and the other copies are installed on the client machines. The client machines are connected to the server via a network. The client machines can access the application on the server via the network. The client machines can also access the application on the server via the network. The client machines can also access the application on the server via the network.

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Canada, according to the Bottled Water Association of Canada, an industry lobby group. Coca-Cola uses municipal water from Calgary and Banff, and, for its Dasani brand, the company filters the water five times to remove chemicals, odour and bacteria, and adds minerals for water billed "pure as water gets." Pepsi makes its own water from Vancouver's Fraser Valley, Ont., for its Aquafina, which is marketed as "the purest of waters." Each distils fairly intense minerals. A litre (33.8 ounces) of tap water in Canada costs (includes an average effluent dose) one tenth of a cent, according to Toronto's city government. The markup on a litre of bottled water selling for 52.50 cents, is 5,000 times. Small wonder Donald Trump extolled the market with his "no sodium" Trump Ice. As his Sylvester Station, an ice creamery, advertises that produces 50 Pure Glacier Water purpers from a 14,000-year-old carbon glacier at Mount Rainier, Wash. The industry, always ripe for environmental spillover, demands more, provides bottled water with BPA, the "first fluorinated, vitamin-fortified water for dogs," and the 2006 launch of UHT33 Bmg H₂O, bottled in Tennessee and marketed as the "Cost of Cleanest Water" in "limited edition, sealed, 594 ml recyclable frosted glass bottles, elegantly handcrafted with hand-blown crystals." Equally pretentious are water's vaunted magical properties. Pepsi's Fitwater Water promotes to pump up energy, "taste so 'natural equilibrium,'" and Juvv Skinny Water is low-salt excess pounds.

Rejection of the industry's grand premises—and high prices—has fuelled the return to the tap in France, the world's second largest consumer of bottled water after Italy. That has been attributed to the efficacy of advertising campaigns launched by municipal water companies that cost the beaches, lower cost and environmental virtues of tap water. In Paris, tap water costs less than a third of a European cent per litre. Greece's Nektar, a popular brand, sells for 15 European cents a litre, while Denmark's Evian costs about 60 European cents a litre. Earlier this year, Greece's Neptunus had back with billboards featuring a photograph of a white rabbit wearing a black "X" "It don't drink the water I see to birds," the poster said. "I drink Cristaline."

Such gross inequity—between the benefits of ecological conservation and corrupt BPA water—has in California, Ont., also cost a 3,000 to 4,000 dead birds in 2006—some from bottled water from a luxury hotel the rich market could afford to appreciate as the same market couldn't afford to buy. As a

result, bottled water's life is diminishing. No longer does it offer the comfort of belonging to a private club drinking from an exclusive water supply. Indeed, Johnson-based Earth Water, a national leader of spring and mineral water, faces an explicit connection between bottled water consumption and the cost of access and the fragility of water supply in developing nations. It doesn't get much more to the United Nations' Water Agency, which

THE WASTE factor is huge: An estimated 88 per cent of water bottles are not recycled



THERE'S MOUNTING EVIDENCE THAT THESE CONTAINERS ARE LEAKING TOXINS INTO THE BEVERAGES

remains old practices.

The alleged health and beauty benefits that made bottled water the preferred beverage hydration of celebrities (who can forget that widely circulated photo of Prince O'Connell getting the gym with his Emu?) are under new scrutiny. The industry remains steadfast in its claim that bottled water is cleaner and more rigorously tested than tap water. Elizabeth Gravel, spokesperson for the Canadian Bottled Water Association, says bottled water analysis is three times as rigorous—Ontario requires it under the Food and Drug Act, the provinces approve the sourcing of water, the industry also regulates itself. Top critics, she points out, is regulated as a utility by the provinces with as consistent national standards. Unlike tap water that can flow through antiquated pipes, bottled water is produced in clean facilities and packaged in sterile bottles, she says. Still, the manufacturing process itself can contribute. In 2004, Coca-Cola Co. recalled its entire Dasani line of bottled water from the British market after levels of bisphenol, a potentially harmful chemical, were found to exceed legal standards. In March, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency warned the public to avoid consuming imported Japanese Classic brand Mountain Spring Mineral Water because it contained excessive levels of arsenic.

Rick Smith, executive director of Toronto-based Environmental Defence, an agency

that tracks the exposure of Canadians to pollutants, doesn't buy industry claims. "There's a misconception that bottled water is safe, which is complete nonsense," he says. "There's no tap water here to meet standards for 160 contaminants, bottled water has standards for less than a half dozen. And 600 bacterial items are done weekly of Toronto water. The extent to which bottled water is tested for bacteria is barely known."



Smith focuses a bottle's crisis. "Bottled water is not only a complete disaster for the environment but, potentially for human health," he says. His greatest criticism lies with the polycarbonate (PET) bottle, the industry's real product. "The production of one kilogram of PET requires 194 kilograms of water and results in air pollution emissions of over half a dozen significant pollutants," Smith says. "To make water, the water required to create one plastic water bottle is significantly more than that bottle will contain." Then there is the waste factor. An estimated 88 per cent of water bottles are not recycled. According to the Environment and Plastic Industry Council, Canadians use 6,000 tonnes of PET beverage containers, many of them water bottles, in landfill or incineration in 2003.

The toxicity of PET bottles, which should never be filled due to risks of leaching and leaching, reveals, remains serious. Last year, William Sharkey, a Canadian scientist working at the University of Waterloo, released a study of 134 brands of bottled water in PET bottles tested for six months, and found that significant levels of antimony, a toxic chemical used in the bottle's production, had leached into the water. Sharkey, who has tested over 1,000 bottled water samples, is now reviving the bottles over a longer term, given the big times that can occur between bottling, shipping, purchase and consump-

tion. The Canadian Bottled Water Association counters that the levels don't pose a risk to humans. "Individually bottled water will not go bad if you properly store it," Gravel says, though she admits algae will build up if it's left in sunlight in high heat.

Smith pushes concerns about material quality with chemical science, people say tested for chemical contamination. "There's no one big evidence of it, but these concerns are leading you into the beverages we're drinking."

On March 12, a billion-dollar class action was filed in Los Angeles against five leading manufacturers of baby bottles, including Bopbebe, a brand found in bird plastic and linked to early onset puberty, including spine curvature, the huge lawsuit in breast and prostate cancer. It is the first such suit to be brought against the industry. "What we are seeing is the beginning of a baby-bottle crisis," says Smith.

Already signs point to water awareness becoming the next trendy topic. The recently published *Thirst: Fighting the Corporate Theft of our Water* by Alan Scarow, Deborah Kaufman and Michael Fox, describes the upsurge of international grassroots protest against groundwater depletion and the privatization of water by multinational bodies. The community of Wisconsin Dells, Wis., for instance, waged a successful battle against foreign-based Nestlé after the conglomerate announced plans to set up a 100-million-gallon plant in the area.

There's another way a bottled water backlash is crucial to preserving a public water supply. The campaign to open North America from the bottle to the tap has been a driving force in shifting cultural attitudes, they write, noting widespread bottled water con-

WE'RE DRINKING AND OUR CHILDREN ARE DRINKING

Je ne bois pas l'eau que j'utilise. Je choisis Cristaline.

consumption, made sure the pet option that water is a gift and go consumer product and that the water supply is not safe or well managed. "Local critics are beginning to see the industry as the biggest of water threats, including the commodification of water, the export of water in bulk, and the end of the bottomless idea of affordable water as a public trust and human right." Putting gradually informed process for the national resistance, they

and our children are drinking and there are any substitutes available," he says. The Environmental Protection Agency in the U.S. announced a massive study in 2006. The year, Statistics Canada began testing 5,000 Canadian for a wide range of contaminants. Data from the U.S. is troubling, Smith says. "There's empirical evidence that these plastic ingredients are now in the bodies of every citizen," he says. "I am quite sure that a few years from now we will look back at these hours and think we're heads and wonder, 'What the heck were we thinking?'"

Legislation against plastic manufacturers will rival that against cigarette companies,

conceded, poses the way. "It is not immediately clear to us paying whatever price the market will bear for bottled water as a product, will we develop the collective commitment to clean, affordable water as a public service that must be guaranteed by government?"

Already, though, there are signs government wants in on the trend. Sen. Frances Poirer, Green New Brunswick has just announced carbonated filtered tap water at City Hall. One Poirer's partner will soon along where they can buy their own carbonators, says Kasey Kierin. "It's definitely sparked a new consciousness." ■

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The Drive is On

who adds that he and Gore don't differ on the facts. "The point at which we probably begin to have conservation is when he says go to Kyoto in a solution." And why are the energy CEOs here? They're not talking, but the head of Calgary's Glenbow Museum and a member of the board of directors of the David Suzuki Foundation, Mike Robinson, speaks up. "They want to know if his arguments are sharp enough to take them on."

The sharpness of the arguments may irk and nurture less than how loud they are. And Gore has become an expert at turning up the volume. The profit from his Oscar-winning documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, and the book it inspired, goes toward the raising of 1,000 scholarships, from his own to screen Catherine Deneuve, who will fan out and present his slide show to more students than Gore can personally reach. Gore is also overruling Live Earth, a series of massive rock concerts to be held on seven continents on July 7, featuring 210 artists such as Madonna, the J'ays, Kanye West, Led Zeppelin, the Black Eyed Peas and Spinal Tap, to name a few. Live Earth producer Kevin Wolf, who did Live Aid, came to reach two billion people.

But the ticket sales from these extravaganzas won't go toward planting trees or scrubbing steelbelts. They'll go to an entity chaired by Gore called the Alliance for Climate Protection, a sort of sophisticated PR company for the idea of a climate crisis. The group aims to "generate overwhelming public support and create a 'topping point' in public opinion for the idea that there is a crisis, and in tell people how to fix it. It's a circle created to raise money to create more heat. Or just heat."

But as he goes in Calgary, the oil patch is applauding. Gore took Regina's swarming coalition in stride, but he seems justly amazed when the Calgary crowd jumps to its feet to greet him. "We really grovel," he tells the audience, adding that he's never had a similar ovation from Houston. He acknowledges that there are many here who "feel like they disagree with me." But, he adds, "Believe me people can disagree. If you have a disagreement on the something-is-all-right, tell it to me." Then he is off. "I am Al Gore," he begins. "I used to be the next president of the United States."

If Gore had been his Regime convert, he now holds Calgary up. Most people in the audience, including Schmidt, have never seen *An Inconvenient Truth*. And Gore modifies his speech. Where he had warned about fresh nuclear far laughs in Regina, in Calgary he means to turn down the "cheap show." Where he told Regina that global-warming skeptics are "a group more rapidly shrinking in numbers than the glaciers," in

Calgary he is more circumspect. "I didn't mean to push this down your throats," he says. "It is difficult to get a story to understand something when the story depends upon his not understanding it," he tells his listeners, quoting Upton Sinclair. The audience responds with nervous recognition, embarrassed laughter. He is, he tells them again, "genuinely humbled" to be speaking to people who might rather not hear his message. Then his voice lowers once whisper, a preacher's trick, as a

THE SHOW IS DESIGNED FOR 'PEOPLE WHO LIKE MICHAEL MOORE,' SAYS ONE CRITIC



IT SEEMS that Gore has been everywhere with his highly polished climate warnings.

But at 7 p.m. in Calgary, the oil patch is applauding. Gore took Regina's swarming coalition in stride, but he seems justly amazed when the Calgary crowd jumps to its feet to greet him. "We really grovel," he tells the audience, adding that he's never had a similar ovation from Houston. He acknowledges that there are many here who "feel like they disagree with me." But, he adds, "Believe me people can disagree. If you have a disagreement on the something-is-all-right, tell it to me." Then he is off. "I am Al Gore," he begins. "I used to be the next president of the United States."

At the close of Gore's address—it is three hours, though his sponsors paid for the short version—the front of the crowd gathers again to meet, and now after two years there. The oil and gas men sit on their heels and leave. Then Gore receives an honorary doctorate from the University of Calgary. "I really felt a surge of emotion. This really means a lot to me," he says.

Later, Gore presses the flesh at a warm-and-fuzzy reception for the energy people. His

face red with emotion, he smiles warmly, grasping hands. Photographs are taken; one man says he wants a shot with Gore to showcase on his office alongside his picture with Margaret Thatcher. Says Gore's "great, great friend," the environmentalist David Suzuki: "I think there were a lot of skeptics here. But they came." Scott Thompson, president and CEO of AlcanLink, responsible for nearly 60 per cent of Alberta's transmountain lines, says, "I don't know if people were wooed." But then there Douglas, head of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce, is jolly. The evening "felt like a stance shift in Calgary," she says. "The vice-president was generally accepted to be in line of the cognition of the energy world—and to be not in line to personally and so on." Outside the hall, one of the oil and gas types dismisses Gore's appearance as a "great show" designed for "the same people as what Michael Moore."

Like Moore, Gore is a lightning rod. But his day after tomorrow in Regina is in Tennessee, get held of unity bells showing that Gore's Nashville transition concerned 20 years the energy of an average American household. Gore defended himself by saying that he and his wife work from home, that some of that power is produced by renewable sources, and that he offsets his energy use by buying on his own. (He also had tried to install solar panels on his house, a move that was blocked until recently by local regulations.)

But the whiff of hypocrisy lingers. When Gore visited the Senate environment committee, a Republican senator asked him to pledge to decrease his lifestyle, Gore refused. As for the effects, some environmental critics deride the scheme for excluding people from actually cutting their own rates. Other critics then accused Gore of cheating himself by buying the carbon offset from a company he owns. It turns out they had it wrong. The investment company he co-founded, Generation Investment Management LLP, doesn't sell the carbon offsets to Gore, only to his employees. The credits are bought from the British-based GreenNeural Co., which charges for a "micro hydro" project in Bulgaria and a solar project in Sri Lanka. Gore's firm also buys carbon credits through the Chicago Climate Exchange, according to company spokesman Richard Campbell, who declined to disclose how much the company spends on offsetting Gore's carbon emissions, explaining that his critics are on the lookout for numbers "to exploit."

There is no denying that, while the climate crisis is Gore's mission, it is also his business. His investment company is not, as it's frequently claimed, an environmentally focused one. It's actually a mainstream investment

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Small sacrifices will be essential to preserve the environment, but some scientists are thinking of even grander solutions

BY ALEXANDRA SHIMO

1. SOLAR-POWERED PAINT

WHO'S BEHIND IT: Edward Sargent, Deputy chief of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Toronto

HOW IT WORKS: Solar-powered paint would redefine what it means to be smart. By creating a material that is thin enough to spray on, any surface could generate electricity, so it's exposed to sunlight. A pair of pants could power your iPod. The roof and doors of houses could become mini power plants. The solar innovation made of semiconductors is one-thirtieth of a millimeter thick—weatherproof, washable and edible, says Sargent.

COST: One-tenth the cost of coating solar panels. For enough solar paint to cover a fence or jacket, it would cost about \$10.

DOWNSIDE: At the moment it's only available in efficient concentrations of solar panels. But, in the past two years, Sargent has increased efficiency 1,000-fold, and researchers expect to achieve similar efficiency at conventional panels within five years.

2. DESERT MIRRORS

WHO'S BEHIND IT: Gerhard Koser, Team Mediterranean Renewable Energy Co.-op, and Dr. Franz Trieb, German Aerospace Center

HOW IT WORKS: Desert mirrors heat water, emitting steam to drive a nearby power station. The linchpin at the special panels that produce concentrated solar power with the intense, direct sunlight found in deserts.

COST: The energy costs the same to produce as oil at \$90 a barrel. These solar stations cost more to build than their oil-powered equivalents, but they would cost much less to maintain.

DOWNSIDE: It would take about 64,000 sq km of desert mirrors to feed the world's constant electrical needs. Then you'd need to build a super grid to

grab power to consumers. Last month, the German government announced that it will send a team from North Africa to talk about the chances of such global co-operation.

3. SEWAGE-FUELLED CARS

WHO'S BEHIND IT: Ulfert 30th-century biotech, and hundreds of thousands of cars in Argentina, Pakistan, Israel and Italy

HOW IT WORKS: Swedish sewage, or at least

some precious bits of it, is powering public buses in some cities. In fermentation processes, microbes, introduced to an bagasse, cellulose and brewer's yeast, ferment plants, landfill gas and ethanol. In Stockholm, buses, garbage trucks and several thousand cars are running on biogas. There is even a biogas train linking Stockholm and Visby on the sea every

COST: About 31¢ per litre of biogas, if the gas is produced locally.

DOWNSIDE: Biogas isn't available everywhere. In Sweden, as a biogas car has to be made with two fuel tanks, cars also have a more limited driving range with biogas.

4. SULPHUR PARTICLES

WHO'S BEHIND IT: David W. Wood, University of Toronto

HOW IT WORKS: Planes would scatter sulphur particles in the atmosphere, which would reflect sunlight and cool the earth. Although the proposal reduces an acid-rain-causing pollutant, it would disturb the natural cooling of the earth caused by sulphur emitting volcanic eruptions, thus counteracting the effect of CO₂ emissions.

COST: \$1 billion per year

DOWNSIDE: One of a number of so-called geoengineering proposals that would potentially alter the climate of the entire planet, rather than tackling the root cause of global warming. Once deemed to be far too dangerous since a small miscalculation could have far-reaching effects, geoengineering projects are now being considered by reputable scientists including Ben Holden, former chairman of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. "Why the change of heart? It might be too late for a course of prevention."

5. BIOREACTORS

RESEARCH SCIENTISTS: GreenFutur Tech, Cambridge, Mass.

HOW IT WORKS: A few dozen kilo metres from Phoenix, algae grows in a sunbaked water tank. A small greenhouse adjacent to the Redbank Power Station. In this pilot bioreactor, carbon dioxide gas from the plant is pumped in, and the algae converts the carbon gas to oxygen and sugar via photosynthesis. The sugars are made



THINKING BIG & GREEN



COST: \$15 million to build a one-square-kilometre bioreactor, and \$1.8 million per year to run. These costs are offset by up to \$5 million a year from selling bioproducts.

DOWNSIDE: These reactors are located in areas of low wind CO₂, they can scrub 30 megatons just one per cent of carbon emissions from a medium-sized power plant. It would take a one-square-kilometre plant.

6. MAKING CLOUDS WHITER

WHO'S BEHIND IT: John Latham of the U.S. government's National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colo.

HOW IT WORKS: If you spray sea water into the sky, white droplets form, sunlight hits the droplets and it fades. Less light makes it to the ocean, which cools the earth. Latham proposes using 3,000 unmanned ships to scatter the water, and satellites to control the whole process.

COST: Roughly US\$1 billion set-up cost.

DOWNSIDE: One concern is whether the clouds might reflect too much light—sunlight essential in the production of hydroxy, the atmosphere's chemical cleansing agent. Long-term hydroxy and we could end up with a buildup of a plethora of pollutants—smog, acid rain, ozone and methane.

7. ARTIFICIAL TREES

WHO'S BEHIND IT: Klaus Lackner, Irving Kipat professor at Columbia University, Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering, New York

HOW IT WORKS: Modelled on real trees, these synthetic trees absorb carbon dioxide as it is much faster rate. Their "leaves"—which look like New York City skyscrapers—would be constructed of materials that react with carbon dioxide, removing it from the atmosphere and collecting it in a liquid at the bottom of the tree. The liquid can then be stored below ground or used to make synthetic fuels, which can be made into building materials.

COST: A 10 x 10 m tree would cost approximately US\$100,000 per year to run and would capture about 1,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year—equivalent to the emissions from about 200 cars in Canada.

DOWNSIDE: These trees consume energy to work. And once you have collected the carbon dioxide, what do you do with it?

8. SMART APPLIANCES

WHO'S BEHIND IT: Joe Sheet, director, Dynamic Demand, a U.S. based NGO.

HOW IT WORKS: Essentially, this smart, cooperative technology regulates when fridges and other appliances are switched on. Machines like fridges can delay when

they need to consume power because they store a lot of cold air that fades their over. So a kitchen appliance that can adjust its electricity consumption

according to the traffic on the grid saves energy and carbon emissions. Even smart cars adjust when to consume electricity—cutting a huge difference in efficiency.

COST: \$6.7 per fridge.

DOWNSIDE: Modifying the world's fridges would be a slow and gradual process. The federal government is researching the viability of the technology.

9. REFREEZING THE ARCTIC

RESEARCH SCIENTIST: Peter Hynek, Poole Chair in Management for Engineering, University of Alberta.

HOW IT WORKS: 3,000 unmanned barges are towed to the Arctic. Once there, they use 100 m boats automatically pump sea water across the ice, which freezes in the cold air, thickening the ice and preventing the current of water that sustains ice and sea temperatures across Europe. "Think of a cold drink," says Hynek. "Alittle bit of cold slows a lot of water."

COST: One-time \$50-billion expenditure to buy the barges and tow them up there, to bill them each year in summer costs.

DOWNSIDE: Highly expensive. Also, this is designed more as an "emergency response" than a valuable solution to climate change. It doesn't cool the planet at all, but merely mitigates one climate change problem—the weakening of ocean currents.

10. WEIRD-SHAPED PLANES

WHO'S BEHIND IT: "Silent" Aircraft Initiative, Cambridge MIT Institute

HOW IT WORKS: Ironically, this green proposal came out of wondering what could do the least noise. The Cambridge MIT Institute teamed up with an international team of graduate students, professors and aerospace engineers and produced an aircraft concept design that would be near-silent and about 24 per cent more fuel efficient than current commercial aircraft.

COST: Unknown

DOWNSIDE: The technology to build one of these planes won't be ready until about 2030, and it's not clear whether the aircraft manufacturers would invest in such a radical overhaul to conventional plane design.

WEIRD SCIENCE: A medical redesign for commercial aircraft design and systems to create white clouds from sea water (see below) are just two of the technologies in development.

COURTESY GREENFUTUR, COURTESY CAMBRIDGE MIT INSTITUTE, SCIENCE ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN HARRIS



GREEN REPORT

THE COLOUR OF MONEY

Corporate Canada has awakened to the huge benefits in going green

BY COLIN CAMPBELL • Stumpage rights over the Red Deer River, the NDPA Chemical plant near Joliffe, Alta., looks like a massive industrial furnace dropped down onto an otherwise idyllic landscape. With its dozens of stacks of burning coal, four rolling hills of ash, Canada, and the occasional herd of cattle, this really seems like an environmentalist's worst nightmare. But look no closer.

Just across a gravel road from the plastic plant, and about 1,000 m underground, one of the most promising technologies for solving Canada's long gas shortage government problem is at work. This is where Penn West Energy Trust is collecting unwanted CO₂ gas emissions from the NDPA plant (renew energy from ground pipeline) and pumping it into an aging oil field underground, the CO₂ tank is laid, joining with valuable left-overs of oil and helping push it to the surface. At the end of the process, all the CO₂—having helped boost

the recovery of oil—remains safely underground, Julia Verbeek/West, the operator of the plant, proudly shows off the sooting and clanging rows of pipes, compressors and tanks used to pump the CO₂ underground being oil back up. “Geebuz for free, you can be worth something to someone else,” he says.

Like a growing number of companies across Canada and the United States, Penn West has discovered there are significant benefits to being green. As at Joliffe, project, over one million tonnes of CO₂ that otherwise would have gone into the atmosphere have been pumped underground—the equivalent of taking about 222,000 cars off the road for a year. In the process, an additional four million barrels of oil have been refined from a field that a few decades ago had been written off as useless. At another oil-rich project pilot project operated by Penn West, the company profit could increase as much as 25 per cent from CO₂ (the same as taking \$5 million out of the road for a year) “It’s a win for the customer, it’s a win for us, because we recover additional oil, and it’s a win for government because it solves a concern for

TRANSPORTATION: Business sees two of Canada's biggest investors in wind-generated power

the people of Canada,” says David Middleton, chief operating officer of Penn West. This kind of corporate embrace of environmentalism is becoming increasingly common among many of the companies thought to be the wave of change in the future—large oil and gas firms and energy intensive companies like refining giant Wal-Mart or the major company Pulpco. While various politicians fret over the economic impact of environmental regulation, many executives are happily talking about the huge opportunities they see in scaling back energy use and emissions, and in some cases voluntarily setting their own tough emission caps. So fully have many large corporations adopted environmentalism that they’re now leading the green movement, taking action and creating billions of dollars in new revenue when governments and the general public have been more content to pay lip service to the cause.

It is, however, important to make a distinction between responsibility and altruism. Corporate greening is very much about profit. Forward-looking companies are beginning to see the writing on the wall when it comes to global warming, and understand that they can invest now in green technologies, and in many cases save money and win customers in the short term, or pay the price later. “It’s increasingly clear at the leading-edge companies out there that are seeing the business case for environmental adaptation and managing that change and other environmental issues as fundamental business drivers,” says Paul Whelan, a senior financial analyst with the World Resources Institute. “Managing the risks and pursuing the opportunities is just sound business.”

Wal-Mart Canada, for instance, recently announced a list of measures aimed at cutting emissions (10,000 tonnes this year) and waste in its stores. Among other things, it expects its efforts will eliminate the need for the equivalent of 12,000 garbage trucks. “We pay for those trucks,” says Wal-Mart Canada’s CEO Mike Plouffe. “Both, it’s good for the environment. It’s also good for the bottom line.”

In the oil patch as particularly, this type of thinking has led to massive investments in everything from alternative fuel technologies that can supplement traditional energy production. If they’re growing green, however, it’s not that chance, there are a lot of other things that companies are doing to make a profit. “The opportunity for us to be involved? How do balance our portfolio between renewable energy and fossil-fuel-based assets?” says Edly Isaac, director of the Alberta Energy

Research Institute. “This is not something government has started. It’s been there ever since—a very progressive view,” he adds.

Last month, energy company Enbridge Inc. told its local media that it was investing \$1 billion in natural gas supplied by a 1,000 MW power plant in Texas. The electricity company Enbridge is now the biggest generator of wind power in Canada. Others, like Sun Oil Energy, are also making big investments in the wind power business. Canada’s biggest energy company, EnCana, is funding a tidal power project in the Vancouver Island. Along with Penn West, EnCana has also ventured into carbon capture, and now operates the largest operation in Canada, in Weyburn, Sask. EnCana says it hopes to meet 50 million tonnes of CO₂ underground there—the equivalent of taking over 6.5 million cars off the road for a year. “We’ve made money with it, it makes good business sense, but it’s making a real contribution from an environmental perspective as well,” says Gary Pross, vice-president of corporate relations at EnCana. Other carbon capture projects are in the works

at other sites. Research and development spending alone by the oil and gas industry in 2001 was over \$10 billion, according to Statistics Canada. In 2007, according to the Conservative government, pledged \$4.5 billion in environmental spending, but much of that is spent over the next seven years. These corporate greening efforts have been a game-changer, it is several leading companies have won the attention of some big names in the environmental movement. Al Gore has publicly praised Duke Energy, the largest utility company in the United States, for its push to cut emissions. Dingo with General Motors and Daimler. Likewise, the energy industry is starting to pay attention to environmentalists. Gore drew some harsh criticism from Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach last week, but the attack seemed in stark contrast to the standing ovation he received after delivering

the message to the other way around. “The big deal is not the numbers,” says CEO Plouffe. “What we’re trying to change is the mindset of how we do business. We’re very much wanting to be a change corporate citizen.”

Other companies have been moving down that road for some time now. Last 2001, Pulpco started to think about the benefits of buying hybrid trucks to cut down on fuel costs and emissions, and started up a full C company called Azzur Dynamics to start building them. It has now ordered 15 hybrid trucks. While the public has been slow to buy corporate hybrids, Pulpco is also aware of them that it has plans to start building its own zero-emission fleet and already has facilities to produce its own hydrogen. But despite the fuel savings, Pulpco is also aware of the hybrid trucks on the road, given the high production costs—about \$40,000 more than a

DAVID SUZUKI RECENTLY CALLED WAL-MART'S GREEN INITIATIVES 'AN INSPIRATION' TO OTHER COMPANIES



PULPCO put hybrid engines in fleets of vehicles, and Wal-Mart is pushing more efficient light bulbs



(1998 companies in Canada and investing in the technology). But without a pipeline linking major sources to oil fields, the biggest concern now is finding enough CO₂ to sequester. “That’s the big mystery,” says Ed Stelmach, an engineer at Penn West.

All this work adds up to some significant sums of money being invested in the name of environmentalism—enough to rival the oil giants, often at environmental government. Penn West spent \$27 million last year on the commitment. TransCanada spent \$16 million in 2005. Shell Canada estimates it spends about \$20 million each year. EnCana, on its spreads over \$100 million each year, but these numbers don’t take into account all the efforts companies make to reduce emissions and energy use that wouldn’t show up in their business models. “We’re investing in new technologies to improve efficiency. That’s not characterized as an environmental investment but it has an impact,” says Pross. Conservative estimates place the industry’s total investment at about

N.A. because there’s still some die-hard oil business that still sees the Wal-Mart has also earned a nod from Gore, and the Canadian green is about these days following support given recently by David Suzuki, who called the company’s environmental commitment “an inspiration and incentive to other corporations.”

Pross the fact that even a lot. No stranger to bad press, Wal-Mart, perhaps more than any other company, has moved to publicly point their finger last week. Wal-Mart Canada announced it is an effort to become the largest buyer of green power in Canada. The company also said that its long-term goal is to produce zero waste, be powered entirely by renewable energy, and start selling more such eco-friendly products. The company’s plan to hold its first ever “Green Supplier Day” to start sourcing the goods. Wal-Mart even recently returned to stores so that customers have to walk past 24 ft of energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs before reaching the old incandescent ones. It used

to be the other way around. “The big deal is not the numbers,” says CEO Plouffe. “What we’re trying to change is the mindset of how we do business. We’re very much wanting to be a change corporate citizen.” Other companies have been moving down that road for some time now. Last 2001, Pulpco started to think about the benefits of buying hybrid trucks to cut down on fuel costs and emissions, and started up a full C company called Azzur Dynamics to start building them. It has now ordered 15 hybrid trucks. While the public has been slow to buy corporate hybrids, Pulpco is also aware of them that it has plans to start building its own zero-emission fleet and already has facilities to produce its own hydrogen. But despite the fuel savings, Pulpco is also aware of the hybrid trucks on the road, given the high production costs—about \$40,000 more than a traditional delivery truck. Pulpco has taken the first steps, but it’s still a long way from becoming the industry standard. The big push forward, the company says, is that the government hasn’t stepped forward with some form of first mover subsidy to sustain the price and help reduce the production costs. Pulpco has been “pioneering and big” for some support, says chief executive Robert Johnson. “We’re looking for a supportive act.”

Pulpco is also a major force in its critique of government inaction. Many executives who are excited about the opportunities of greening green are equally perturbed, cranky, and frustrated by government dithering on the subject, both in Canada and the United States. Leading corporations, including many energy companies, are not coming to popular belief, raising the idea of government regulating greenhouse gases. In fact, they’re the day and environmental regulations would bring to the industry. “What the companies want more than anyone else is a clear indication as to what the government wants as they can make plans accordingly,” says Paul Griffiths, a policy analyst with the Alberta-based Pross Inc. Without a clear road map, investments in cutting emissions become very risky. “It’s not a totally easy task,” says Griffiths. The vice president of sustainable development at Shell Canada. The oil industry points to the dramatic reduction in gas flaring and venting that was driven in part by tough restrictions put in place by the provincial government. The federal govern-

CONRAD'S MAÎTRE D' LAWYERS

The 'celebs' arrive and the defence treats them like star reservations



MARK STEYN

At the end of a long day in court, last week, Conrad Black made some observations on ethics, and I replied: "One would hope so."

Blatantly "I've learned anything in these last four years," he said, "it's that when someone tells you 'I would hope so,' it means 'no, you're wrong.'"

So I came down I thought the defence had won Round One on points—that is, the government had put up a prosecution of and against the contraband, or as the way less made them look like babies and bunglers. But the prosecution had now moved onto Round Two—the big game, the celebrity diversion of Hollinger International—and I didn't think that was going so well.

The celebrity diversion isn't really celebrities, even by the standards of US desperate trial lawyers. Richard Branson would be higher, for example, than ambassador to Germany, and so long ago it was only Wort Guinness. But he was beset in principle, and he was very much at ease in the spotlight, unlike most of last week's witnesses who did possible impressions of terrified wildlife when you ask them to be seen in light on. Personally, I thought there was a pulled up camp, but then I've never been on State Department trips. Also, the tough old buzzards on the defence legal team were more explicable also. Grizzled lawyers who've spent years representing Chicago mobsters were suddenly transformed into eloquent maître d's ushering the star reservation to his table.

Gai Narayan, the whiskey connoisseur Nao Yanher whose style proved so effective against earlier witnesses, was reduced to doing his Canadian shrill without any relaxing

forensic probing while Burt eyed him with the faintly bowed air of the village squire enduring a variety show put on by his under-gardeners. One dreaded to think how the defence boys would have abused the natives had some genius bag shot shown up. The deputy trade minister of Tajikistan, say.

Black took a central figure in the Hollinger story. He's the guy who, as a critical board member, slipped to a fellow director across the table a piece of paper bearing the scribbled words "Call Richard Brecken"—the former head of the SEC. These three words set in motion the unraveling of the company and of Conrad Black's life. On the other hand, sound about the same time, he had better surgery and suffered memory loss. The defence suggested to render in a garbled reference to the brain surgery but not to the memory loss, never mind that's active role in the dismantling of Hollinger. So for two days he was allowed to conjure a mix of truth and lies, of disoriented patients' authority, and the defendants' lawyers never laid a glove on him. On Monday, Pat Tase, the feisty old bird who represents Hollinger's accountant Jack Boulton, did the same with another celebrity witness, Marie Brown Kriens. Mrs. Kriens had also sat on the board of Hollinger. "I'm not going to say with that," said Tase, as eyes rolled all the way out the courtroom, down the stairs and into the Chicago River. As a witness, Mrs. Kriens told him. He hoped she'd enjoyed the time weather her weathered the chair's uneven floor for a smile at that. The cell's dramatic attitude to the defence team seems to be based on Barbara Amiel's article in the *Wall Street Journal* about Tom Sawyer's biography. If you maintain in defence as proving the first wall fault, the three girls was very effective.

So my line to Lord Black was that, while the defence had done a good enough job making the suit and corporate lawyers look silly and even, they had to rise their game with the Hollinger A team like Ambassador Burt and Mrs. Kriens. You don't need to tell that to Conrad, of course. Inside the court, the defence often seem to be fighting



BURT EYED HIM WITH THE FAINTED AIR OF THE VILLAGE SQUIRE ENDURING A VARIETY SHOW PUT ON BY HIS UNDER-GARDENERS



AF COURT: Kriens (left), Boulton (right)

the truth rather than the forest, believing to win points you don't always use the game at the HQ. Conrad told the 30th, the 30th court room was not for reduction to his million added \$110 million to the Cite-Wire deal because it was composed on the EFTDA, as Outside the Court, Conrad pulled the grand sweep-on one occasion, famously disavow the prosecution as "Nim".

And, to be honest, I think he's right. Well, okay, not Nao, but certainly London. In fact, for example, take the sentence he's facing 181 years in jail. What kind of countries throw people in jail for a century? In any other developed nation, Black would be doing a

strawp a month of this and—except that, as any other developed nation, this wouldn't be a sentence of it all, just a civil one between competing business factions in Canada or Britain, the state would have no interest in the matter.

Now I'm all in favour of long sentences. This column is full of them, so that empty hole pointed out on our letter page the other week. I support the death penalty for murder, and for rape and violent crime. I'm happy to throw away the key. But in a civilized society a tough sentence can only follow a scrupulously fair trial. What's fair about a trial in which just about every witness is true as a condition of his own deal with the government?

The celebrity diversion was served on a platter of "Wall Street" by the SEC—and they're both in the same position in which a cut of donors has been assembled in order to serve as witnesses in a criminal case dealing with a series of events which, if they are a crime, appear to be a criminal case. In one case of accounts a grange.

Even so, it's a bunch of shifty witnesses to an over-shattering crime. Is it the "non-omnibus" agreement? No, they're rogues. Is that they're tan-fest?

No, that's legal in Canada. Is it that they weren't disclosed? No, they're on an accessible list and 2000 and 2001 on the SEC website for all to see. Is it that they weren't approved by the audit committee?

Well, that's what Mrs. Kriens and Co. are trying to argue despite their notes all over documents to the contrary. But the government seems to think that if you accumulate enough witnesses it doesn't matter whether there's an actual crime. And, for all the clouds in the witness box, you're stranded after a month and a half by the complete absence of victims. We were told in the opening statement that the Black gang "made" from the state holders, when the prosecution's credible Jeffrey Crozier (painted as sweet 'N' of grade) was covering their retirement savings and had working single women putting their retirement into Hollinger for Junior's college fund. In the Kriens case, these were thousands of folks who'd lost their pensions. But, at this case, not a single grade or single more witness will be called, nor even the grey Wall Street types from Twenty Browne and other institutional investors who, under Mrs. Crozier's colourful

of the lives or moments of his anonymity, Rich and Burt remarks, appears a characteristically Canadian shrill about the "corporate governance fad" that it was a "fad" in the sense that the computer is a fad.

Oh, I don't know. In the wake of Kriens, Crozier posed the characteristically disloyal corporate governance dilemma to "Barbara Amiel": "The loss to the average American public company of complying with Sarbanes-Oxley are said to be around \$16 million per annum. For a small company with revenues of \$50 million, that compliance cost about \$2 million—or four per cent. On revenues in excess of four billion dollars, Conrad Black and Co. are accused of making \$60 million. In other words, the government's regulatory regime introduced to expose the bias of Conrad holding shareholders has cost shareholders far more money than has "theft" ever did.

Is that it? Judging from the collapse in IPOs in the United States over the last few years and the immediate rise of companies choosing to list in London, Hong Kong and elsewhere, American regulation better hope it is. I'm aware that the Black trial lawyers are high priced experts and know their business and have presumably con-

sidered business, make up the dark reality of Hollinger shareholders would. The fact is, if you put Christopher Browne and other investors up on the witness stand, they'd nail the jury, as they told Master's the few weeks ago, that the whole sorry Black defenceless and abundant corporate meltdown has been a favour for shareholders. Believing Hollinger into the hands of Richard Brecken and those to a 12th floor court room had one nothing for a hard working witness like Mr. Brown.

So we're in a curious position in which a cut of donors has been assembled in order to serve as witnesses in a criminal case dealing with a series of events which, if they are a crime, appear to be a criminal case. In one case of accounts a grange.

Even so, it's a bunch of shifty witnesses to an over-shattering crime. Is it the "non-omnibus" agreement? No, they're rogues. Is that they're tan-fest?



WEEK 1 OF CON: Brecken, Amiel, Black, Kriens

cluded that a concerned national defence the best shot at acquittal. But Conrad's off-stage outbursts are nearer to the truth. There is some thing each judge is wise here as a technical question about the approval of the disclosure of the non-omnibus.



EVERYONE'S TO BLAME FOR AIRBORNE FUELING
Thrupping of Chicago, China, was finding her own business when she was knocked out cold by a killing jet. "I was walking on the rooftop under the building," Thrupping said, "and suddenly a heavy object hit my head." But finding the car's owner proved impossible, according to the manager of the apartment block where the jet hit. Unsurprisingly, Thrupping is suing all 200 residents of the side of the building facing the street. The car died.

A new Muslim young-adult novel is Judy Blume with a twist

A photograph showing three women wearing hijabs working at a table. The woman on the left is wearing a white hijab and glasses, and is looking towards the camera while holding a small object. The woman in the middle is wearing a red and black patterned hijab and is looking down at her work. The woman on the right is wearing a black hijab and is also looking down at her work. They are all using sewing machines on the table.

THE HEROINE, like many Muslim girls, reads Corbin, sings, and writes about boys

Madeline's science partner, Adam. One afternoon, five days before the end of winter break, Aysel is hit with an epiphany during an episode of *Friends* in which Rachel refuses to be seduced by a hideous laid-back man in a dress; she's ready to become a "Full Time" someone who wears the scarf whenever she's in public, not just at the mosque.

Many have written, the novel is a waste.

ring with the fact that it's God's will. "The way I see it," she writes, "I'd rather follow God's fashion choices than some ugly false trended old idea in Milan who's getting by on a pretty self-serving theory of 'less is more' where it comes to female dress." Besides, the high has certain benefits for a teenager who's worried about whether she's put on a few pounds or has a pimple—especially when she has to deal with Tia Tamer, "the resident trash can of words," on a regular basis.

Annal knows her picture will come by hard choice—along with her friends Vanessa, Lilianna, and Minnie, her teacher Mr. Pezzie, nuns, bald women, and people who appreciate good fabric. She is less sure, however, about every body's life at school or her pro-animalism suit and socks. The conversation flows over down the road, hand com. feminists, spunky neurotic, and socialist of all, her beloved Adams. What a mess when she walks into school will the book's publishers be hoping, resonate for a whole generation of soon-to-be girls.

According to Maudlin-Gail, a new benchmark glossy magazine based in Chicago, there are some 300,000 teenage Maudlin girls in the U.S., and they thrive: among the most under-served, recommended demographic groups. The magazine's primary mandate, says editor-in-chief Amanda Stone, is celebrating these young women and challenging stereotypes. "The majority of girls who were teens, and Maudlin girls in general, like to look chic and modern, and fit in with their friends, even to the extent of wearing some minimal make-up in addition to the head scarf!" she says. "As the Islamic fundamentalists, the engineers on an airplane, not on raising a woman in a harem, hope or assume her beauty?"

It's hard to imagine a more perfect vehicle for conveying the colossal amount of pain it takes to do a *high* and find a roomful of people who think you're a hero. "I was 20 years-old then, the last word...with all its transcendent power and anger. And to me, on my first day back in school, Angel spreads its wings and adjusts her legs—a place where some of us might be disappointed the manes and yellow saddle—so to get just the right 'bony material and' to frame her face. 'To wait the high in the face of your pressure and in the context of a world which is so full and so under attack it takes courage,' says Abdel Fattah. 'I wanted to be brave and show you that courage.' ■

recherches de la médecine et de la biologie humaine, nous avons voulu nous adresser à un public plus large, à des personnes qui ne sont pas forcément spécialistes de la médecine et de la biologie humaine, mais qui sont intéressées par les avancées de la recherche scientifique et par les applications de la recherche scientifique à la médecine et à la biologie humaine.

KEYWORDS: child sexual abuse; disclosure; social support

First he bought a hockey team, but the Hollywood deal collapsed

BY ASSASSINATION DATELINE — By all accounts, Matt Juncos is a blondblonde guy. A third baseman in beer-league softball. The second-highest scorer on his in-line hockey team. An aspiring filmmaker of some promise. But unfortunately for Juncos, the only thing that he's really been noted for in his 27 years on earth is the fact that he did *seem* to have been a little too much.

Earlier this spring, the Tinseltown resident and his father, baritone, made headlines in the American entertainment press by launching an epicurean, misbegotten breath of protest lawsuit against the legendary film director

Star *Boyz n the* The sm, fled in U.S. *Dancer* Court as New York, needs \$300,000 plus unspecified *dancers* *evening* *sisters* for a *million* *deal* *going* *new*. *According* *to* *the* *statement* *of* *chick* *in* *the* *news* *about* *a* *cash* *advance* *with* *her* *long* *hair* *and* *the* *music* *of* *79s* *classic* *The* *Star* *Picture* *Scene* *and* *Paper* *Muscle*, *and* *his* *quest* *and* *brave* *W*, *William* *Boyz*, *to* *take* *on* *Meat* *and* *beams* *in* *the* *songs* *of* *Hollywood*, *providing* *a* *job* *as* *an* *assistant* *dancer* *on* *Boyz* *and* *its* *next* *picture*. *But* *after* *LaToke's* *money* *changed* *hands* *in* *February* *2006*, *the* *fame* *party* *that* *granted* *once* *never* *materialized*. *Start* *deals* *for* *pre* *jobs* *kept* *being* *pushed* *back*. *And* *when* *they* *lasted* *for* *the* *return* *of* *their* *money* *a* *year* *ago*, *they* *claim* *they* *were* *robbed*. *Boyz* *now* *has* *yet* *to* *file* *a* *statement* *of* *defense*. *Boyz* *messages* *left* *at* *Boyz's* *law* *firm*.

“It’s kind of tough, I’m not sure what I can comment on,” he said in an initial conversation, requesting time to consult with his father and their lawyer. (There was no response to further phone messages.) And Iaroslav, his father, isn’t speaking either. The Russian-born businessman, who immigrated to Canada with his family in 1994, did not respond to phone calls and an email. His company, MTA Canada Ltd., described on findon.com

entment websites as offering consulting services to businesses looking to expand to the former Soviet republics, also holds the Russian rights to fireworks running those and other sites (opend). A company spokesman said the elder Jivov spends much of his time abroad. Although not well known, the business appears to be a lucrative one, affording the family a



The income has also enabled her to help her son

THE PITY OF THE LATEST ROUND OF PUBLICITY IS THAT MATT APPEARS TO HAVE TALENT AS A FILMMAKER



BO-GOIA MOWICH drops his base hit with a \$150,000 fireworks-ful-granite launch by *John J. Brown (Lafayette)* and *Tom Mow*

making some lofty dreams. In the late 1990s, the club owners purchased the Thornhill Rats, a two-two junior hockey club in suburban Toronto. The team quickly acquired a new backup goaltender, the then teenage

Mail: The congressman worked well for his constituents. In 2009-2010, when the average household income was \$30,000, he was determined that his job should be to start to warm the bench, despite the fact that his wage—leading to a 7-1 record. When his general manager, coach and assistant coach departed, they conned them, they claim. "I loved his kid, and I was fed because we wouldn't play him," says Rob Tarrow, the Bluefield GM, now director of accounting for the USMC. Dan Politano, then coach, says, "I've had said that that point been a support system, helping them build a winning club. And he remembers Mike is a 'great kid' and he was a 'great player' and he was a 'great first baseman.' The team was the only team wasn't a good enough player. "He was still a little Junior A guy, really," says Politano, now director of therapy for OnStar's private Appleby College. "But we had a pretty strong team and could have been."

The prize of the latest round of daily-
polling for Matt is that he actually seems to
have some talent as a filmmaker. Skip
Arhondogly, a 20-minute short he wrote and
directed about two brothers who find themselves
advised on opposite sides of the fence lines by
the Second World War, had his premier at
Toronto's World Film Festival 2006. The
festival, which runs from the 19th to the 25th
of June, is the largest and most prestigious
event in North America devoted to film
festivals. Clips on the Web show lush
production values—elaborate costumes and
sets, and large battle scenes with complex
plots and special effects. David Alajo,
Toronto actor who played the role of Vasilis
in the film, said he was impressed by the
scale of the shoot, north of the city. "Of the
independent films I've been in, it was the
best I've ever been involved in," And he
praised Jago's patient direction, and noted
"I suggest to anyone who follows their dream,
to follow their dream. It's not an easy
dream, but it's a dream that can be
realized. I thought it could." Who said for a
day? says he doesn't know. But it's hard to
make an educated guess. Painter, the pro-
duction company, is headquartered at the
Jago family home. ■

YOU CAN'T
PICK
YOUR FAMILY



SOMETHING BORROWED, SOMETHING BRUISED
Heath at Motown and Hawk Allart's hair band. Inside five years, so when they got married in Aberdeen, Scotland, last week, it seemed like a really made in heaven. Yet within hours, Heath was laid away in handcuffs. After the wedding gown and hair, changed with blind faith and cloistering his head with a straitjacket, Heath spent the weekend in a lock-up. Said his old-world hair band: "It was something over nothing. Just one of those silly things."

THE BACK PAGES

film

Zipper Jones
his scenes
7.66

music

Montreal's
French wine
7.66

taste

The beauty of
high wine
7.67

stage

Enough with
Hendel
7.68

bazaar

Kids cure
soggy movie
7.69

help

The Lettuce
Side Me diet
7.70



film

When a corporation holds a meeting, a 60-year-old goal isn't usually the big topic of conversation. And then there's *Song of the South*, the movie's pull back. Not only are they afraid of a possible backlash, they're nervous they may not think it's right to release a movie like this. You said it that 2006 meeting that the "it's this and that" debate has been brought on by bringing out *Song of the South*. Hill adds: "You have to understand, this is California, a bunch of white liberal guys. As much as they'd love to have the money that *Song of the South* is going to make, they're hesitant."

2004 With Disney like a hybrid of old money and new money, that has dominated the news from two straight Disney shareholder meetings. The news is that Disney executives could make millions of dollars by releasing it, but they're afraid to.

Song of the South was an adaptation of Joel Chandler Harris's stories about the stereotypically wise and loyal black servant Uncle Remus (James Baskett). He spends most of the picture telling stories about various characters who appear in pigskin dusters. In 1946, these movie types were held by movie-industry standards. But 60 years later, in the age of Don Juan and Michael Richards, Disney is pushing its upcoming racially sensitive animated movie, *The Princess and the Frog* (with its first African-American heroine), and those who run the company fear that the Oscar-winning song *Zip-a-dee-doo* may not be enough to make *Song of the South* acceptable.

Song of the South has never been released on home video in North America, and it's no longer shown on TV. And yet enough people

wish it to be released, says "Disney has come within inches of releasing this film three times during the past 10 years." But every time they come close to releasing it, the executives pull back. Not only are they afraid of a possible backlash, they're nervous they may not think it's right to release a movie like this. You said it that 2006 meeting that the "it's this and that" debate has been brought on by bringing out *Song of the South*. Hill adds: "You have to understand, this is California, a bunch of white liberal guys. As much as they'd love to have the money that *Song of the South* is going to make, they're hesitant."

The problem is, the money is just too tempting to pass up for long. Hill says that Disney now has a particular need for use on DVD releases, because of the limited success of their latest franchise—the "Pixar" high-definition DVD. "They were hoping to do with this why they did with DVD, which would allow them to rent that same library of titles again," Hill says. Instead, with most consumers unwilling to switch over to high-def DVD, the company has to look for potential box office that isn't on DVD yet. And because security increases

and said "I want nothing to do with this." This is all happening at a time when other companies are getting better about releasing movies with racial issues in mind. Warner Brothers' most recent *Looney Tunes Golden Collection* includes Southern Fried Rabbit, where Bugs Bunny poses as a slave (singing "Don't bust me, master").



Disney's afraid to release 'Song of the South' because of its racial stereotypes. Apparently 'red men' are fair game, though.
BY JAIME J. WEINMAN

Zip-a-dee-doo-don't mention it

have seen it, or at least heard about it, to make it one of the titles that film most request from the faded Disney Vault. At this year's meeting in New Orleans, Robert Iger, the current chairman of the Disney corporation, was asked whether Disney had any plans to release *Song of the South* on DVD. Last year, he had responded to a similar question with what amounted to a no: "owing to the sensitivity that comes in our culture... we made the decision not to release it." This year, he was slightly more open to the possibility, saying that "we've decided to take a look at it again because we've had numerous requests about bringing it out." This noncommittal response became big news, inspiring articles in the *Associated Press* and *USA Today*.

Jim Hill, who runs the unofficial Disney Fan Film Festival, says that the film has a great deal of potential value that *Song of the South*. The word was to release a film like this would be to provide a canon, an explanation of the racial attitudes of 1946 and of America's time. Disney has done this with other animated films, creating out of the *Looney Tunes* a canon to provide a canon for the Second World War propaganda cartoons. For a big movie like *Song of the South*, they'd need someone more (the movie is then *Looney Tunes*, and Hill says they're been casting a wide net. They had talked to both Garrison Keillor and James Earl Ray. The idea was that they wanted a famous black actor or a famous storyteller to come forward and explain that *Song of the South* was an important film. "They may also have talked to poet Maya Angelou, who, according to Hill, 'sawed the hell out of them.' She dug in her heels

on an upcoming collection of old Universal cartoons, *Woody Woodpecker and Friends*, will feature *Song of the South* as a highlight of *Company B*, a cartoon that stereotypes African-Americans as thick-lipped, just living life.

But Disney has a problem: these companies don't have. When Warner Brothers at Universal released old cartoons, they knew that they will be bought, and seen, mostly by adults. "Warner puts a disclaimer on cartoon collections warning that they aren't suitable for children." A film with the racist name "Disney" isn't automatically assumed to be child-friendly. Which means that if *Song of the South* hits DVD, millions of children will soon be quoting *Red* Rabbit's "Doo! Doo!" to their parents. The company usually deals with this problem by being slow, as when it chopped a racially stereotypical character out of all commercial releases of



HANDEL'S ALICIA at the Sydney Opera House. His star parts were written for castrati, which makes much of his performances kind of odd

Enough already with the Handel

More and more critics are saying the famous composer is over-performed and overrated

BY ANDREW A. WEISSMAN • After decades ago,

George Frideric Handel was known only as the composer of the Hallelujah chorus from Messiah. Today, he is one of the most performed of all baroque composers. His operas are in the repertoire of every opera house, and young singers are trained to sing his lead roles. In 2009, the world will observe the 250th anniversary of Handel's death, which will lead to even more performances than we're getting now. But were we better off in the old days, when Handel was rarely performed? A growing number of critics seem to think so.

Andrew Kluth, writing for the British newspaper the *Guardian*, issued this tirade when he declared that the opera world is too obsessed with Handel: "It is so common to hand to avoid the impression of self-deceiving weariness that things to some Handel operas performances," he wrote. He also expressed a preference for lesser-known baroque composers like Jean Philippe Rameau, the Frenchman "whose stage works contain far more variety than anything Handel can offer."

Other critics followed suit, citing Kluth's article as their inspiration. Justin Davidson, music critic for *Newsday*, wrote that we are "drowning in Handel operas," and wondered "whether the Handel boom isn't a bubble." Robert Christman in the *Daily Telegraph* complained about endless Handel at London's major classical venue: "The Baroque's obsession with baroque opera continues with a four-hour concert performance of Handel's *Giulio Cesare*." A critic who'd printed Handel was Anthony Tommasini in the *New York Times*, writing that the Met's production of *Giulio Cesare* revealed "the pervasive psychological knights of bourgeois misanthropy." But if the *New York Times* praises something,

that may prove that it's overrated.

Is Handel overrated? His operas undoubtedly have some spectacular music. But much of it sounds the same, sometimes because it is the same. He was a constant recycler of melodies. And much of the great stuff is in a rigid format: an Act one, a short Act two, and a repeat ("da capo," from the beginning) of the Act two. The emotional context of the music is so specific that Handel could take the tone of a revenge song (from *Giulio Cesare*) and reuse it as a song about love (in his *serenata Semele*). That reuse is a collection of those things that a musical drama.

Of course, an evening of *shoppe* operas can be fascinating. But there's no one around today who can get the full entertainment value out of Handel's operas. His star parts were written for castrati, men who could sing high and loud. In the absence of that kind of singer, audiences have to settle for a less-than-voiced counter tenor, or a less-than-voiced soprano. (The Polish contralto Irena Bedke, who has played Handel's *Giulio Cesare* in Rome) pretending to be a Roman emperor. Which means that Handel operas are kind of dull when not performed by excellent people.

Greg Sandow, music critic for the *Wall Street Journal*, pointed out another problem on his blog: the things that made Handel operas work in his own time are things that

today's singers don't have the nerve to do. Handel's singers, sandow writes, would perform all their arias while standing center stage, "sometimes even standing into the middle of the audience on specially constructed ramps." Then they'd sing the second section of the aria, which would be completely disappeared. "Opera singing in Handel's time was like jazz in the 1950s," sandow wrote. "It was a singer's job to create a new song from the same melody." Today's singers are trained to stick to the written notes and stay within the bounds of good taste, so they repeat the melody as carefully, and lovingly, as possible.

It's not only singers who are more careful than they should be. Eighteenth-century opera was meant to show off costumes, sets, and special effects. Handel's *Scarlatti*, *Alcinaide*, *Il pastor fido*, and *Il trionfo di Tamerlano* were full of special effects. The music was supposed to be simple and useful so as not to distract attention from the spectacle, which Handel had to write pieces without sets or costumes, as in *Messiah* and other oratorios, he wrote less formal music. Most opera companies now don't have the budget for these sets, so they focus on the drama. But in these operas, there isn't enough drama to carry the evening.

That may be the answer to the question of whether Handel operas are overrated. Handel wrote them as entertainments, and they work on that level. But when opera houses treat pure entertainment as high art, the result can be kind of boring. ■



PERFORMANCE OF THE WEEK: A BURKA SATIRE

His new play didn't have a long run, but for sheer audacity, few theatre companies in the West match the Ajlani Theatre in Lahore, Pakistan. Its writer, Shukronigara, is a call for modernism, and company head Madeha Gohar. The play, about enforcing the wearing of burkas, is smart, Gohar says. Yet, of Islam but at conventional female burkas who make others aware the garment by walking slowly and bearing them.

Erin Davis & Mike Cooper in the morning.

98.1CHFI
Toronto's Late Favorites



ERIN DAVIS AND MIKE COOPER. PHOTO: JAMES HARRIS

CAMP DAY

On June 6th Tim Hortons coffee can be an eye opener for kids too.

That's because June 6th is Camp Day, and every coffee you buy helps send cheering.

How to coffee a losing experience that can have a

winning result in this time.

They're probably wondering what this means. Well, there are

4 Tim Hortons Children's Foundations across the country. Each camp is in a unique wilderness setting, be it the Rocky Mountains, the Adirondacks,

the Lake of Umbagog, or the great lakes of Ontario. By having the camps in such diverse locations, it means that

the camps can be introduced to the cultural and geographical characteristics of this area.

The supportive atmosphere in each camp encourages campers

to take on the new and unfamiliar challenges they discover. This environment is designed to build their confidence and leadership abilities, giving them an experience that can open their eyes to

their potential for a bright future. That's why we get so enthusiastic about Camp Day. You see, Tim Hortons store owners donate

whole pounds from coffee sales on Camp Day to the Tim Hortons Children's Foundation, enabling over 12,000 kids to go to camp.

But it all starts with Camp Day, with your coffee purchases, with you. So please, on June 6th, come to your local Tim Hortons, buy a coffee and help send kids to camp.



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because

HEALTH CARE NEVER TASTED SO GOOD: Kids' medications and vitamins have been reinvented as gum balls, lollipops and frozen treats

Willy Wonka's medicine factory

They look like candy, taste like candy, but these sugar bombs come from the pharmacist

BY LIANNE GEORGE • If you're a kid, and you like candy—which, chances are, you do—there are complicated ones. Candy is your jurisdiction: the stuff of Halloween, birthday parties, and Saturday morning cartoons. Most often a third of food commercials suggesting you ingest praise. And yet, responsible adults want to keep you from it. So reach to the Baskin, for one, has teamed up with them selling it to you in a pill. Meanwhile, you peek into your mom's medicine cabinet, a place historically reserved for brown bottles with small type, only to find that cold medicines and multivitamins have attractively been

but now competitors—antacids and vitamins, with brightly patterned marbles and decorative trays that look like the ones on the shelves. Their specialty is pediatric compensation; medicines are actually made and consumed on site, just like in the old days.

On the wall of Kidzika is a "Gummy Meds" menu board, which lists options for dissolving prescription medicines with concentrated oils: cherry, banana, watermelon, grape. This is only a sample of what's available, says owner and pharmacist William Brownstein. "We have like 100,000," he says—chocolate, tart fruits, cotton candy, peanut butter. "If you can think of it, we can do it." Depending on the prescription, kids can choose a liquid, gel, or even lollipop format. And they can personalize the bottle with cartoon stickers.

The advent of Kidzika and Cherry's represents a concept push in the drug and vitamins industry to appeal directly to this younger demographic. According to the U.S. trade publication Drug Facts News, kids ages 5 and under are the greatest users of prescription drugs after senior citizens. "The market is billion," says Brownstein. "And people will spend anything on their children."

Of course, the trouble with marketing medicines to kids, says Kathleen Glass, director of the biomedical education at McGill University, is that "the product that's most

appealing to the child isn't necessarily the one that's best for the child." Moreover, when kids have kids ever been good at lying off the candy? According to the Ontario Poison Center, 43 percent of all reported poisoning cases involve kids under the age of six. An enormous number of calls to the center every day, says Heather Terno, a nurse educator there, are related to overly the med remedies.

"The most common call is a child who thought this was candy and has eaten an overdose," she says. "It's not just how much was missing from the bottle, so the center has to help figure out the worst-case scenario."

Many of the products resemble only very innocuous active ingredients (making them overpriced junk food). But some of the cough and cold medicines, say, that are made to look like frozen cream cones and gummy bears and other sweets. "Even some of the parents have vitamins mistaken vitamins A and C. These are ingredients we're very concerned about if it's enough to ingest."

Dea Brownstein, when applying the Willy Wonka of pharmacy, is a surprisingly critical of over the counter candy work. "What we're doing with compounding," he says, "is for a child who has an infection, or God forbid, needs chemotherapy. A lot of these medicines are very, very bitter. They're easy. We make it seem fun and easy. But really what we're doing is as really, unbelievably unpleasant." On the other hand, he says, gummy-bear vitamins are just sugar. Ever heard of a lollipop?

WHAT THEY GOT FOR IT FRANCIS BACON'S TRASH

The celebrated artist had intended to toss out an assortment of letters, diaries and portraits, some of them defaced. Instead he gave them to a friend, Max Baer, who kept them for 82 years before having them auctioned off last week in London, 15 years after Bacon's death. Forty-five lots of items fetched \$11.3 million for Robertson, who described the goods as "bits and bobs," including a portrait of a dog that's said for 100 times its estimate.





EDITH BRANCO, Matthew Corbin: Branca's ideal meal is steak fries and a pizza bubble. 'This month will be all about fighting temptation.'

Lettuce morning, noon and night

In a bid to lose weight, a Toronto woman will be eating nothing but salad for one month

BY KIMBERLY BUCKLER—Edith Branca is no stranger to challenge. In 1979, she was hit by a bus and told she was lucky to be alive. "I didn't know what had happened. It was only when I heard the paramedic say, 'Miss the backside hit that way' [that I realized I was hit]," says the 40-year-old Branca who works at the accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers. "It triggered a big change in me. I was in a very unhappy marriage and I was about 250 lb. I realized I had to start taking care of myself." Ironically, Branca had been working out and had just left the gym when she was hit. "After the accident, I did gain more."

Hitting from a large Portuguese family that is passionate about food, Branca has benefited from her mom's healthy diet. Starting today, she will embark on a new challenge, called Lettuce Star. It's a twist on the 2004 documentary *Super Size Me*, directed and starring Morgan Spurlock, who ate three meals a day for a month at McDonald's without concern. Branca will, for 30 days, eat breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks out of Toronto's five Lettuce Star locations, a chain of restaurants specializing in carnosy-dressed salads. Her goal is to go from a size 16 to a size 12 in time for summer. She'll also be starting an exercise regime, committing to cardio and endurance training four times a week.

Branco, who is five foot seven, admits she is a typical yo-yo dieter and for weather gym gear. At her healthiest, three years after the accident and getting divorced, she had shed her first 100 pounds and was running five kilometers a day. "I was at that point about 160 and a size 12." It didn't stick. As of yesterday, Branca hadn't worked out in months. "We're going out in the '90s" right now she weighs 195. Her ideal meal is steak fries, cheese

bratise for dinner, with a "really good coffee." On bad nights, dinner is a large bag of onion rings. "This month will be all about fighting temptation," she says. "I've told all my friends that when I come over not to put food out. Temptation is everywhere. I go to the food court during lunch and there is a McDonald's and a Home Burger. At my office there are always Tiramis around and people buy cakes every time it's someone's birthday." Even at her healthiest, Branca allowed herself a day a week to binge. "What's missing in this challenge is that one day."

It's not that Lettuce Star doesn't have options. They offer more than 70 fresh ingredients for their salads, from tomatoes and avocados to spinach, watercress that include everything from alfalfa sprouts, black beans, chicken, and beef and onions to grilled tofu and shrimp. Branca says she only hopes she'll be as successful with her project as the founder of Lettuce Star, Matthew Corbin, has been with his business, which has grown from his location to five in only two years. (Corbin, who is 35.) "I know Super Size Me," says Corbin. "We're just making everything be good and making it good. We're really taking this to the extreme. It's not a good name."

Cameo guest to Branca casually when she occasionally visits one of his locations. What he came up with the idea for Lettuce Star. Me



MOST IMPROVED LINDSAY LOHAN

The newly cleaned-up starlet is clearly showing new levels of confidence, as well as love for her fellow man. Lohan has told an interviewer she actually covers the attention of paparazzi and would feel better admired their constant pestering. "I'd be worried," she says. "I'd be like, 'Go people, not take her away.' Where Lohan has drawn the line is "in a car accident, or where I was in the AA meetings." That, she says, is simply disapproach-

to create buzz for his business, he immediately thought of Branca, and has positive outlook on life. Not that it was easy to find her. (He eventually did, through a Google search.) Still, "I want you to lose weight? But I had noticed over the years so I saw her that she went up and down. I said, 'I'm working on something and I thought of you.' She was totally pissed about it."

Corbin is confident Lettuce Star will work, saying every entrepreneur who has worked at Lettuce Star has, on average, lost 20 to 30 pounds. "I know it can be done. I've done this challenge for two years myself." (He estimates in two years he's about 2,000 pounds.)

Registered holistic nutritionist Kyla Zala of Calgary says she did it "a great idea." At the very least, Branca "will increase the amount of nutrients in her diet." Not everyone is an enthusiastic "I question whether she will be getting enough carbohydrates," says Barbara Pinksky Hurn, a registered dietitian, whose Calgary "Without enough carbohydrates energy, she may feel fatigued, and unable to complete her workouts."

Branco herself just wants to prove she can do it for herself. "I'm 100 lbs. I'm chocolate. Most of all I'm a size 16." (Lettuce Star doesn't serve coffee.) How will she reward herself for making it through a month of lettuce? "After from a new wardrobe," she laughs. "With a big denim dress and a glass of red wine!"

Look, Mr. PM—Slim Jims! (And also books!)



SCOTT FEUCHTWILER

More than merely a first-time writer, Scott Feuchtwiler is also a world-class optimist. How else to describe an author who would start a book club for Stephen Harper, a man whose affection for the arts knows all bounds?

Don't get it wrong: Feuchtwiler is not the Prime Minister's secretary for posterity, a highly unlikely post seeing a highly unlikely. We know this because the media is reporting as it's true, although it's in getting to think they only noticed his death of charisma and figural. God must have offered up some sort of make good gesture. And it certainly wasn't the hair.

But Feuchtwiler has come to the conclusion that the Prime Minister "sounds and seems like one who can lead for the arts." And so, seeking to do what Harper's artistic appreciation beyond his occasional sponsoring of private art to be a "cultural" "more, please," the award-winning author of *Life of Pi* has vowed to deliver one book every two weeks to Harper's office.

On one level, you might think there'd be a natural connection between Feuchtwiler and Harper. After all, an author who wrote as masterfully of being trapped in tight quarters with an arrogant and a hypocrite should have no trouble sympathizing with a man forced to eat at the same canteen table as Peter MacKay and John Bair.

But Harper is a busy guy. He's got a court to run, a populist voice to protect and two fall lips to be pleased by his disloyalty. So, after all, he's got his own book club. He's got a court to run, a populist voice to protect and two fall lips to be pleased by his disloyalty. So, after all, he's got his own book club. He's got a court to run, a populist voice to protect and two fall lips to be pleased by his disloyalty. So, after all, he's got his own book club.

Feuchtwiler has for now two books—*The Book of David* by Leo Tolstoy and *Amor* by Thomas Mann. For his part, Harper has responded by reading both books and giving thoughtful critiques on his website. "Yes, that's the sentence I would have written if we lived in a parallel universe where I was a night and up to down. But also we live in this universe, so instead I must report that, as of this press time (and, one assumes, all press times until MacKay's is consumed by a merciless robot press bureau in the year 2357), Harper has steadfastly ignored the books. And I think I know why. Both of the novels are pretty deep, and they're pretty old, and they're written by foreigners who aren't even American. Furthermore, upon every inspection of upon another author wants to be the trouble of making his sentences creaky."

Which is why, Feuchtwiler, any own book club for Stephen Harper is a club dedicated solely to books that the Prime Minister might actually read. I'm sending the first five all at once. To bolster the likelihood that they'll attract the PM's attention, I'm binding them together with a decorative ribbon. (Shin here and a note that reads *Dear Prime Minister*.)

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Who wants literature that's old, deep and by foreigners who aren't even American?

Look, a dozen Slim Jims! (And also books!)

3. *The Great War State Chronicle*. A surprise! After all, as Dr. Scott's influence on your government is everywhere—from the building of highways that aligns with our western art Canada failed to recognize the treatment. ("We did not view them here or there," Gordon O'Connor remarked, "We did not view them anywhere.") To John Feuchtwiler's public reading with the Lohan, coinciding with his recent use of the wharfed in place to blame climate change on methane emissions from the Soviet Bear-its home.

So why stop there, Mr. Harper? You've got the makings of an oil-burner, but you've got to fully commit. Remember this: Inevitably, not which, scholars agree, unless MacKay will look for a party—and remind you that it's not enough to crash the dreams of an adorable little girl. You must also steel her

room heart. So send carefully—but be sure yourself for a most depressing plot twist toward the end. I don't want to spoil it for you, but console yourself with the knowledge that if your heart ever really did grow those shoes, you'd die naturally so that's a load off.

2. *On a (Pret) The Owner's Manual for West Management*. This just saying.

1. *I Finally Think Stephen Harper is Not by Scott Feuchtwiler*. (Actually, this is just the



and there with a blue cover placed modestly upon a—has my guess is he'll put them in a box in before he returns the lack of focus from 21st-century Hollywood studios in depressing 19th-century Russia.)

4. *The Love Day*. The Playful, Non-aggressive Way to Watch Your Day Good Behavior. The good news is that it's just work on the day. The bad news is you're going to need an adult lot of breaths to keep Mike Duffy in line.

5. *The Secret*. The book starts you can achieve what you desire merely by a strong, sweet ally when Gordon O'Connor inexplicably falls into that deep pit and lands on top of David Suzuki, Daniel Williams and metropolitan Toronto. ■

ON THE WEB: For Scott Feuchtwiler's take on the news of the day, visit his blog www.mackinnon.ca/feuchtwiler

ROBERT 'BOB' ALLEN ALLISON

1947-2007

He learned early the importance of a strong work ethic, and never forgot it

Robert "Bob" Allen Allison was born on March 18, 1947, in Timonium, Ore., to George and Nancy, who also had a daughter, Elizabeth. They emigrated to the rocky rural region from northern England. George was a firm and strict father, and Nancy a children's still weaker. They were compassionate adults and workers, and Bob learned early the importance of a strong work ethic and serving others, says his son Scott, who received the name Jesus from Bob.

During childhood, Bob looked forward to getting a new pair of hockey skates from his parents every Christmas. In high school, he enrolled on the football field as offensive tackle and defensive lineman. When he graduated in 1965, Bob received a partial scholarship to play for Harvard. But Bob knew his parents would struggle to support him, so he went to work in Massachusetts.

Instead, Bob, who had worked summers underground with his father, left Timonium for Timonium of football wasn't his future, neither was mining. He earned his accounting designation, and worked with a tire company, and then in the music industry, before he was hired into the telephone company in New Lakeland, Ore., 200 km from his hometown. Mary Johnson was an accounts payable clerk. As a college intern, they met socially for the first time, even though they'd been raised in neighboring towns. "We never associated because they were millionaires and we were farmers," she recalls. Despite their new friendship, Bob's quest for fulfilling work didn't stop; he moved to North Bay, and she went to Ontario. In 1974, Bob was in the capital city for a conference, and invited Mary to dinner. "We talked a long time, all 2 a.m., and it just fell into place. After that we were a couple," Mary says. She moved into a cottage on Lake Nipissing with him.

In 1977, Bob and Mary married. The honeymoon to the East Coast was postponed a few months when Bob couldn't get out of most eyes. Over the years, Bob, Mary, and their children Scott and Jennifer (along with their black and yellow Lab) lived in towns across Ontario—Owen Sound, Leamington, Thunder Bay, Wingham, Newmarket—according to Bob's work as a financial expert known for saving around struggling companies. "He was a workaholic," laughs Mary, and "he always berated himself when he moved."

In 1982, the family relocated to Bendale, Ont., for tragic reasons. Elizabeth, recently widowed, died suddenly of a heart attack. Bob and Mary adopted his children Tracy and Mark as their own. George also moved with them, because Nancy had died. A few years later, he was killed by a heart attack. "Bob was a rock during all of this," says Mary. "He kept working on what he had to do." Adds Jennifer: "Everything he did was for the benefit of the family."

By 1996, Mary was longing for northern Ontario again, and Bob's work began to take a toll. They went back to Thunder Bay, where he became the superintendent of business for the Lakeland school board. Now responsible for the financial health of education institutions full of ambitious young students, Bob was reinvigorated. By 1999, he was ready for his next challenge. He took the same position at Kawartha Place High School based around Peterborough, Ont., where staff were looking for someone to fill the void left when the previous superintendent of business—a hard-working and gracious leader—died of a heart attack at his desk on his birthday. "Bob knew this when he took the job, but he wasn't taking deal for him," says Mary.

Bob was just the right fit. His business acumen meant he knew how to stretch limited funds, and he was sensitive to the needs of students and students. "Bob said, if we make a decision that doesn't improve things for kids, then why make it?" recalls Joe Hubbard, Bob's colleague, adding, "He was a mastermind of pulling strings and making the best out of poor resources." It was stressful, says Mary. To accomplish his goals, Bob often worked late evenings, most Saturdays, and throughout the summer. "Bob didn't complain. I heard him talk to his unaccompanied time as 'relaxing,'" says the wife. Bob's secretary, Lori Sweeney, Bob flew with a colleague to attend a school board conference. They had a second drive home over last year in Quebec City, but it was covered by him when one of their passengers died suddenly. "This was going better. On Monday night, people push each other out of the car and again that had a second year because part of his retirement began. The next morning, while in the hotel lobby, Bob collapsed on a couch. He was rushed to St. Michael's Hospital. On April 26, 2007, Bob Allison, 60, died of a heart attack.

BY CAVITY DILLI



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The Civic doesn't just drive past gas stations—it flies past them. That's the beauty of the Civic's innovative i-VTEC engine. It gives you fuel economy and performance. And for even greater engine efficiency, there is the Civic Hybrid, recipient of the 2007 *EnergyGuide Award* for most fuel efficient compact car. On top of which, Civic Hybrid is also the most affordable hybrid car in Canada. In the Civic you'll see less of the pump, but you can always send a postcard. To learn more about the super efficient Civic, visit honda.ca.

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